



VICTORIA

GOVERNMENT GAZETTE

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[1976

BOARD OF INQUIRY INTO WORKERS COMPENSATION IN VICTORIA.

At the Executive Council Chamber, Melbourne, the
twentieth day of January, 1976.

PRESENT:

His Excellency the Governor of Victoria.	
Mr. Meagher	Mr. Smith
Mr. Hunt	Mr. Dixon.

Whereas it is deemed expedient that a Board of Inquiry be appointed for the purpose of inquiring into and reporting upon matters contained in the undermentioned terms of reference concerning Workers Compensation in Victoria:

Now therefore, His Excellency the Governor of the State of Victoria, of the Commonwealth of Australia, by and with the advice of the Executive Council of the said State doth by this Order constitute and appoint His Honour Judge Clive William Harris, to be a Board for the purposes of inquiring into reporting upon and making recommendations on—

The system of Workers Compensation contained in the *Workers Compensation Act 1958* and its operation and effect, and in particular without affecting the generality of the foregoing—

- (a) whether the principles and practices adopted and employed by the insurance industry are appropriate and adequate for the proper determination of the eligibility of injured workers to receive benefits in accordance with the *Workers Compensation Act*;
- (b) whether the *Workers Compensation Act* system operates in such a way as to enable the system to be abused or exploited and if so what amendments should be made to the *Act* to prevent such abuse or exploitation;

- (c) whether the present practice of varying the rates of Workers Compensation under the *Act* having regard to the movement in the Average Weekly Earnings Per Employed Male Unit index is the most appropriate for the purpose or whether some other practice or method should be adopted;
- (d) whether the present method of financing the system of compensation for workers is the most appropriate for the purpose or whether some other, and what, method, should be adopted;
- (e) whether the effect of Medibank on the Workers Compensation system is such as to justify a further reduction in the premium rates payable by employers in respect to an employers policy and if so, the extent to which the premium should be reduced;
- (f) whether it is more equitable that an injured worker should be paid benefits applicable at the date of the occurrence of the injury rather than at the date of the award of a lump sum;
- (g) whether the obligation of a principal independent contractor to insure under the *Act* can be prescribed in the *Act* with certainty.

And it is hereby directed that the said Judge Clive William Harris shall, with as little delay as possible, report under his hand to the Chief Secretary his opinion resulting from this inquiry:

Whereof the said Judge Clive William Harris and all other persons who it may concern are to take notice and govern themselves accordingly.

And the Honorable John Frederick Rossiter, Her Majesty's Chief Secretary for the State of Victoria, shall give the necessary directions herein accordingly.

TOM FORRISTAL,
Clerk of the Executive Council.

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