

18 January 2011

Hon Paul Holloway MLC
Minister for Industrial Relations
GPO Box 2832
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Minister Holloway

Re: 2011 WorkCover Review

There are only two issues that the South Australian Farmers' Federation (SAFF) wishes to comment on and in doing so they don't particularly impact on the farm sector.

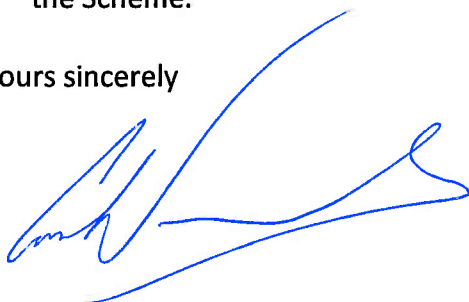
1. Provisional Liability

The amendments resulted in injured workers receiving 13 weeks of Notional Weekly payments pending the determination of their claims. In genuine claims the SAFF believes that is quite appropriate but when claims are rejected the payments are not refundable. Claims that take 13 weeks or more to be determined are usually psychological claims (eg depression, anxiety etc as a result of bullying and harassment).

2. Bonus / Penalty

The Bonus/Penalty provisions have been removed. The bonus component was an incentive for employers to assist injured workers to return to work early and the penalty component was applied (in addition to the Industry Levy) to individual employers whose employees lodged claims. The removal of this scheme has taken away the incentive to some degree for employers to encourage some injured workers return to work, usually when there were unresolved work performance issues when the injury occurred. The slower return to work will potentially increase the Industry Levy and the overall cost to the Scheme.

Yours sincerely



Carol Vincent
CHIEF EXECUTIVE