About the Board

Overview

The WorkCover Tasmania Board works with employers, workers, licensed and self-insurers, doctors and others to reduce work-related injury and illness in Tasmania, and aid the early return to work of injured workers.

To achieve this it:
- promotes prompt and effective injury management
- promotes safer and healthier workplaces, through providing health and safety information and practical guidance
- manages Tasmania’s workers compensation scheme and monitors the performance of scheme participants.

The Board provides advice to the Minister for Building and Construction on work health and safety, and workers rehabilitation and compensation matters.

The Board’s functions and responsibilities are set out in:
- Part II of the Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988
- Part 2 of the Work Health and Safety Act 2012

For details, see ‘Board Functions’ in this report.

Stakeholders

The Board’s stakeholders in the workers compensation scheme are:
- workers compensation insurers and self-insurers
- doctors accredited to issue workers compensation medical certificates and assess impairment
- service providers such as rehabilitation providers and injury management coordinators.

The Board’s stakeholders in its work health and safety and wellbeing initiatives with WorkSafe include:
- persons conducting a business or undertaking
- workers.

Other Board stakeholders include:
- the Department of Justice
- the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and industry
- Unions Tasmania.

Relationship with WorkSafe Tasmania

There is a strong relationship between the Department of Justice and the Board, with the Secretary of the Department filling the position of Chair of the Board.

The Board monitors and reviews how WorkSafe Tasmania exercises its powers and performs its functions under legislation for workers compensation; work health and safety; and asbestos compensation.

Additionally, WorkSafe staff implement the decisions of the Board and help the Board fulfil its functions in workers compensation, injury management, and work health and safety. WorkSafe informs the Board of emerging national issues and developments in other jurisdictions.

For details of WorkSafe’s activities, see the Department of Justice annual report at www.justice.tas.gov.au.

Risk profile

Risk management is an important opportunity to define key risks within Tasmania’s workers compensation scheme and the Board’s management of the scheme; and to minimise any negative consequences from those risks, align accountability for managing risks, and ensure consistency between risk management strategies and controls.

The Governance and Audit Committee has a three-year internal audit plan which categorises risks as scheme management, work health and safety, Board operation, strategy and governance, and effective monitoring and reporting.
About the Board

Membership

Chair, Simon Overland, Secretary of the Department of Justice, appointed ex-officio pursuant to Section 9(1)(a) of the Act.

Paul Arnold, appointed pursuant to Section 9(1)(b) of the Act from a list of three names submitted by the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ltd.

Richard Lowrie, appointed pursuant to Section 9(1)(b) of the Act from a list of three names submitted by the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ltd.

Peter Tullgren, appointed pursuant to Section 9(1)(c) of the Act from a list of three names submitted by Unions Tasmania.

Steve Walsh, appointed pursuant to Section 9(1)(c) of the Act from a list of three names submitted by Unions Tasmania.

Leigh Mackey, an Australian lawyer with experience in workers rehabilitation and compensation matters, appointed pursuant to Section 9(1)(d) of the Act.

Peter Donaldson, a person with extensive experience in the workers’ compensation insurance business, appointed pursuant to section 9(1)(e) of the Act.

Robert Walters, a medical practitioner, appointed pursuant to Section 9(1)(f) of the Act.
About the Board

Attendance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Aug 16</th>
<th>Oct 16</th>
<th>Dec 16</th>
<th>Feb 17</th>
<th>Apr 17</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Simon Overland</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paul Arnold</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Lowrie</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Tullgren</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Walsh</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leigh Mackey</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Donaldson</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rob Walters</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Governance and Audit Committee

Purpose: To monitor and advise the Board on matters relating to governance, audit and risk management.

This year, the Committee reviewed the:

- Board's annual financial statements, procedures and expenditure
- Board's common seal usage
- Asbestos Compensation Commission Common Seal usage
- Board's risk profile
- Asbestos Compensation Scheme audit
- Board's operation, strategy and governance internal audit report.

Membership: Richard Lowrie (Chair), Leigh Mackey, Steve Walsh
The committee met five times this year.

Legislative Review Advisory Committee

Purpose: To advise the Board on the legislative and legal aspects of the Board’s roles and functions.

Membership: Leigh Mackey (Chair), Peter Tullgren, Peter Donaldson. Advisors: Greg Mathews, Stephen Carey, Colin MacKenzie, Sandra Taglieri, Mathew Wilkins

The committee met once during the year to discuss and provide advice on the Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Amendment Bill 2016.
About the Board

Rehabilitation and Compensation Committee

Purpose: To monitor and advise the Board on matters relating to the efficient and effective operation of Tasmania’s workers compensation scheme.

This year, the Committee oversaw:

- continued work on a mental injury model for workers compensation
- the Medical Advisory and Mentoring Service pilot project, the Second Injury Scheme project, the WIMS Strategy project and the Review of The Regulatory Framework project
- the application of the Nationally Consistent Approval Framework for workplace rehabilitation providers
- the Injury Management Scholarship Program
- the monitoring of the performance of workplace rehabilitation providers and injury management coordinators
- work on developing the Independent Medical Examination guidelines.

Membership: Peter Tullgren (Chair), Leigh Mackey, Peter Donaldson. Advisors: Angela Kerrison-Smith, Jennie Cox, Anne–Marie Dean

The committee met five times this year.

Work Health and Safety Committee

Purpose: To monitor and advise the Board on matters relating to Tasmania’s work health and safety performance and opportunities for work health and safety improvement.

This year, the committee oversaw the:

- asbestos awareness campaign
- Better Work Tasmania program
- fatigue reduction technologies for the transport sector project
- Health, Safety and Wellbeing Advisory Service re-structure
- review of coronial findings
- workplace bullying prevention strategy
- WorkSafe Awards
- WorkSafe Month.

Membership: Rob Walters (Chair), Paul Arnold, Steve Walsh

The committee met five times this year.
Board Functions
Board functions

The Board oversees the operation of Tasmania’s workers compensation scheme and provides advice to the Minister on the effectiveness of the scheme and associated legislation.

Under the workers compensation laws

The Board establishes, implements and monitors the standards required of scheme participants that the Board has direct control of: licensed and self insurers, accredited medical practitioners, and workplace rehabilitation providers.

In October 2016, the Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Amendment Bill 2016 was introduced to the Parliament of Tasmania.

In support of this, the Board responded to the Tasmanian Government’s request to reduce ‘red tape’ in the scheme. The Board reviewed the existing regulatory framework and processes and consulted with stakeholders to identify areas where the scheme could be streamlined for those stakeholders while maintaining the Board’s oversight of areas under its control. A new regulatory framework was approved by the Board and will be implemented in the latter half of 2017.

Medical practitioners

The Board accredits medical practitioners who wish to issue workers compensation medical certificates, and who wish to assess permanent impairment.

There were 1,199 medical practitioners accredited to issue workers compensation medical certificates; and 392 medical practitioners accredited to assess permanent impairment. To see these, go to www.workcover.tas.gov.au and search for ‘medical provider’.

The trial of the Medical Mentoring and Advisory Services ended this year. Evaluation of the project has been completed with a recommendation that the service not be continued.

Workplace rehabilitation providers

The Board accredits workplace rehabilitation providers to deliver workplace rehabilitation services in Tasmania. To be accredited, applicants must demonstrate they meet the requirements of the Nationally Consistent Framework for Rehabilitation Providers.

There are 52 accredited workplace rehabilitation providers as at 30 June 2017. To see these, go to www.workcover.tas.gov.au and search for ‘rehab providers’.

Insurers

The Board licenses insurers to cover employers for workers compensation claims made by their workers; and grants permits to employers to self-insure against workers compensation claims made by their workers.

There are 7 licensed insurers and 10 self insurers as at 30 June 2017. To see these, go to www.workcover.tas.gov.au and search for ‘insurers’.

Approved injury management programs

The Board approves the injury management programs of the Tasmanian State Service agencies, employers, licensed insurers and self-insurers.

There are 32 approved programs as at 30 June 2017. To see these, go to www.workcover.tas.gov.au and search for ‘injury management programs’.

Scheme analysis

The Board monitors, analyses and evaluates the performance of Tasmania’s workers compensation scheme; and identifies emerging trends and problem areas.

The Board’s actuary:

► provided reports including the Suggested Industry Premium Rates 2017–18 Report, Scheme Review, Notional Premiums and the Premium Industry Analysis Report

► reviewed specific sections of the Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 where the legislation required a review to be done

► analyses data from the Nominal Insurer.

The performance of the scheme is reported later in this annual report.
Board functions

Under the asbestos compensation laws
The Board has responsibilities under the Asbestos-Related Diseases (Occupational Exposure) Compensation Act 2011, including:

Reporting on the effectiveness of scheme
The Board receives periodic performance reports detailing the operation and effectiveness of the asbestos compensation scheme, plus other qualitative information.

Collecting data
Work is progressing to integrate asbestos data into WorkSafe’s information management system. This provided a more streamlined claims management process, managed through a dedicated user interface within the system; and regular migration of all payment transactions made to accepted claimants from the Department of Justice’s finance systems.

Advising the Minister
The Minister approved a reviewer to perform the systems review of the Asbestos-Related Diseases (Occupational Exposure) Compensation Act 2011. The Minister asked the Board to oversee this review to ensure it satisfies the approved terms of reference for the scheme.

Annual review of the scheme
The Board’s actuary conducted the annual review of the operation of the asbestos compensation scheme.

For further details of the operation of the asbestos related diseases compensation scheme, see the Asbestos Compensation Commissioner’s annual report at www.justice.tas.gov.au.

Under the work health and safety laws
The Board supports WorkSafe Tasmania’s Strategic Plan (see at www.worksafe.tas.gov.au). This sets out tangible goals to achieve safer and healthier workplaces, including working with employers and workers to influence their attitudes towards safety and empower change toward positive behaviours.

Board-funded initiatives supporting these goals were:

► a workplace bullying campaign (starting September 2016) focussing on bullying as a WHS hazard. New print and radio ads, online content, printed resources targeted employers and workers; and seminars were held in WorkSafe Month 2016

► an asbestos safety awareness campaign (starting May 2017) focussing on the dangers of asbestos. New print, TV and radio ads, billboard, online content and resources targeted DIY renovators, tradespeople and workplaces. This received funding from the national Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency

► the Inaugural WorkSafe Tasmania Conference (October 2016) focussing on leadership and safety culture

► the annual WorkSafe Awards (October 2016) recognising achievement in workplace safety

► WorkSafe Tasmania Month (October 2016) providing face to face and online opportunities to learn from safety experts

► Better Work Tasmania (throughout the year) providing networking events to provide workplaces opportunities to learn from safety and wellbeing experts.

Other important engagement tools supported by the Board include the quarterly Workplace Issues magazine and WorkSafe’s Facebook page.
Appendices

Contracts


Summary of Participation by Local Business
(for contracts, tenders and/or quotation processes with a value of $50,000 or over, ex GST)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total number of contracts awarded</th>
<th>1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number of contracts awarded to Tasmanian businesses</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of contracts awarded</td>
<td>up to $800,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of contracts awarded to Tasmanian businesses</td>
<td>up to $800,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of tenders called and/or quotation processes run</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of bids and/or written quotations received</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of bids and/or written quotations received from Tasmanian businesses</td>
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Contracts with a value of $50,000 or over (ex GST)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of contractor</th>
<th>Location of contractor</th>
<th>Description of contract</th>
<th>Period of contract</th>
<th>Total value of contracts</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Red Jelly</td>
<td>Hobart, Tas</td>
<td>Marketing and communication services</td>
<td>1 Feb 2017 to 31 January 2020</td>
<td>Up to $800,000</td>
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</table>

Grants

All based in Tasmania except Incolink, based in Victoria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Total value</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asbestos Free Tasmania</td>
<td>Development and distribution of trades booklet</td>
<td>28 Oct 2016</td>
<td>$18,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Incolink</td>
<td>Alcohol and other drugs prevention program</td>
<td>21 July 2016 to 30 June 2017</td>
<td>$138,047</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry</td>
<td>Work Health and Safety Advisory Service</td>
<td>21 July 2016 to 30 June 2017</td>
<td>$254,250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worker Assist Inc</td>
<td>Worker Assist Service</td>
<td>19 August 2016 to 30 June 2017</td>
<td>$330,000</td>
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Appendices

Right to information
This year 133 requests were received relating to workers compensation:

- Two requests were received that required assessment as an assessed disclosure under the Right to Information Act 2009.
- 131 requests were released as active disclosures after the provision of an authority by the applicants where required.
  Fee are not applied to active disclosures.
These requests are managed by the Department of Justice.

Number and source of requests

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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Employer</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individuals</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>116</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insurer</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other jurisdictions</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Solicitors/clients</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>133</td>
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Decision time (days)

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<tr>
<td>1–20 working days</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>133</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 or more</td>
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Type of request

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<td>Claims history/insurer details</td>
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<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<td>6</td>
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Request addressed to

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<tr>
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<th>2016–17</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dept Justice RTI officers</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>114</td>
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<tr>
<td>WorkCover Tas/info</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>WorkSafe</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>wstinfo@justice/Helpline</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
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