1. The Workers’ Compensation and Rehabilitation (National Injury Insurance Scheme) Amendment Bill 2016 implements the Queensland Government’s agreement on the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) to implement the National Injury Insurance Scheme (NIIS) for workplace accidents by 1 July 2016.
2. Key changes being given effect by the Bill include:
* enabling eligible workers who sustain serious personal injuries to receive lifetime care and support which meets their necessary and reasonable treatment, care and support needs in relation to their injuries;
* enabling eligible workers who seek common law damages to elect to receive a lump sum for care and support damages rather than lifetime care and support payments, provided particular safeguards are met; and
* enabling workers’ compensation insurers to delegate their functions and powers in relation to lifetime care and support, by way of a contractual arrangement, to the National Injury Insurance Agency, Queensland established under the *National Injury Insurance Scheme (Queensland) Act 2016* for the NIIS for motor vehicle accidents.
1. The Bill also provides for flexible self-insurance arrangements. These include an additional form of guarantee for meeting financial security requirements for a self-insurer’s outstanding claims liability, and allowing a former self-insured employer to reapply for a self-insurance licence within five years of ceasing to hold a licence, with the same minimum employee criteria applying as when it first received a licence.
2. The Bill includes amendments to restore the original policy intention of certain provisions, following recent Court decisions which have resulted in unintended consequences for the workers’ compensation scheme.
3. Certain statutory and common law benefits are automatically indexed each year according to changes in Queensland Ordinary Time Earnings (QOTE). The Bill provides an indexation method that will not result in an automatic reduction to any payments or amounts as a consequence of a reduction in Queensland Ordinary Time Earnings.
4. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Workers’ Compensation and Rehabilitation (National Injury Insurance Scheme) Amendment Bill 2016 into the Legislative Assembly.
5. *Attachments*
* [Workers’ Compensation and Rehabilitation (National Injury Insurance Scheme) Amendment Bill 2016](Attachments/Bill.PDF)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.PDF)