

Dear Queensland members,

**Re: Injured workers' rights under threat – you can help - Support the Workers' Rights Coalition**

As you know, the Queensland government is considering possible changes to the law relating to injured workers.

Among the changes being considered is a proposal to stop a majority of those workers, injured through their employer's negligence, from seeking redress through our justice system, by the introduction of a threshold. Between 80% and 90% of all common law claims would be prevented if this was made law.

The introduction of such a threshold is being strongly advocated by WorkCover, and is being considered by the Government at the moment.

**The Queensland Workers' Compensation scheme is fundamentally sound and the ALA is doing all that it can to protect the integrity of the scheme.**

We have been heavily involved in stakeholder meetings and have been steadfast in opposing any threshold on access to common law.

Meanwhile, the Workers' Rights Coalition has reformed to oppose any such changes that would restrict the rights of injured workers. It is a grassroots organisation made up of all persons and organisations that oppose rights being taken away from injured workers and their families. It first formed in 1995 when Queensland was first faced with threats to the workers' compensation laws. It was a very influential and powerful voice across the whole of Queensland. It has always had the support of ALA and continues to do so.

**The Workers' Rights Coalition believes that injured workers should not lose their rights to justice.**

The Workers' Rights Coalition believes in a fair system, which provides real incentives for employers to make sure workplaces are safe, and which allows those injured at work access to justice and fair compensation, so that they can live with dignity and have a reasonable standard of living.

The Workers' Rights Coalition is building support to oppose any changes that strip away rights from injured workers.

I write to urge you to support the Workers' Rights Coalition immediately. This will be a short, sharp campaign, as the government is committed to making a decision imminently.

**What can you do?**

1. Send a representative to the **next Workers' Rights Coalition meeting**, to be held on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> April 2010, at 2pm, at the offices of the Australasian Meat Industry Employees Union, Level 1, 39 Lytton Road, East Brisbane.
2. If you live outside Brisbane, register your interest in starting a regional Workers' Rights Coalition by contacting [info@workersrightscoalition.com.au](mailto:info@workersrightscoalition.com.au)
3. Encourage your clients, your staff, and their families and supporters to join the **email list**, by contacting us at [info@workersrightscoalition.com.au](mailto:info@workersrightscoalition.com.au); and/or
4. become a **public supporter** of the Workers' Rights Coalition, including being listed on their website as a supporter.
5. Contact your local clubs and associations and have them join the Workers' Rights Coalition.
6. Write letters to the editor of your local paper.
7. Speak with your local member of Parliament.

I strongly urge you to support the Workers' Rights Coalition. It needs you to take action now.

Yours faithfully,

Justin Harper  
Qld State President