



Media Alert

Monday, 12 April, 2010

A threat to remove common law rights to injured Queensland workers has triggered the reforming of the Workers' Rights Coalition – an organisation originally set up in 1995 to protect workers' compensation mechanisms.

The newly revived Workers' Rights Coalition (WRC) will meet on Wednesday to launch a new campaign to defend injured workers' abilities to seek redress in court when injured as a result of employer negligence.

“WorkCover, which runs the government insurance scheme for injured workers in Queensland, is pushing to limit access to common law rights for between 80 and 90 percent of injured workers,” WRC convenor, Bob Carnegie, said today.

“Without such protection, more families stand to suffer as a result of an inability to access common law. These people may be forced to rely on charity to put food on the table. And those forced to work with a debilitating condition because of introduced thresholds, will also suffer more pain, if this plan goes ahead, despite the injury being no fault of their own,” he said.

Mr Carnegie said conversely, if the original system, with improved management was maintained, it would continue to help the injured turn their lives around without burdening taxpayers.

“The Workers' Rights Coalition maintains mismanagement, including deflated premiums, by WorkCover has led to the financial problems of the insurance scheme. The last time a scheme was so poorly run was when the HIH Insurance Group collapsed in 2001,” he said.

Who: Workers' Rights Coalition

Where: Australasian Meat Industry Employees Union office, Level 1, 39 Lytton Road, East Brisbane

When: Wednesday, 14 April 2010 at 2pm

Contact: Workers' Rights Coalition convenor, Bob Carnegie, 0439 478 996.