
WorkCover Queensland laws to hit injured workers - Alliance

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One key aspect of change, announced by the government, to WorkCover Queensland legislation, this week, is of great concern to the Australian Lawyers Alliance, whose aim is to protect injured workers' rights and access to justice.

ALA president, Justin Harper, said the retrospective aspect of the legislation was unfair as it abolished the right, for those injured at work, to seek damages from those shown to breach workplace health and safety rules.

"Retrospective legislation is the legal equivalent of moving the goal posts half way through the footy game and we don't support such a move because it is inequitable," Mr Harper said.

"Whilst being critical of the retrospective aspect of the legislation, the Alliance believes it is vital to protect the structural and financial integrity of what most people regard as Australia's best workers compensation scheme," he said.

Mr Harper said while legislative change was part of this process, transparency in this process had been lacking recently and needed to be restored.

"The stakeholder process clearly identified that cultural and behavioural changes were sorely needed within WorkCover and the Alliance remains committed to assisting this process to occur promptly," he said.

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