



Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee

Inquiry: Inquiry into the Workplace Injury Rehabilitation and Compensation Amendment (WorkCover Scheme Modernisation) Bill 2023

Hearing Date: 12 December 2023

Question[s] taken on notice

Directed to: CPSU, Karen Batt

Received Date: 19 December 2023

Additional Questions:

1. **Evan MULHOLLAND**

Question asked:

Has the number of your members on WorkCover for mental health injuries increased or decreased over the past 3 years?

1.1. What in your view is the primary cause of this increase?

- **Response: The incidence of mental injury claims has risen in the last three years, as has physical claims. The principal factor behind the increase in mental injury claims can be attributed to government policies, with claimants often citing workload and work pressures stemming from the reduction in VPS numbers.**

2. **Evan MULHOLLAND**

Question asked:

In March 2023 you also said:

"I have no problem sitting back in my corner and brightening this spotlight on the Andrews government's exploitative practices as an employer," Can you elaborate on this remark?

Response: The excessive workloads and number unfilled vacancies prior to the recent Budget reprioritisation which has exacerbated this situation is a contributing factor to the impact on the work overload, anxiety and stress VPS staff across the board are experiencing.

3. **Evan MULHOLLAND**

Question asked:

In March 2023 you said: "The government has known of these problems

since 2021". Can you elaborate on this remark?

Response: The financial returns of WorkSafe have been public knowledge since at least 2021.