

Interim Report

Economic Development Committee

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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Parliamentary Committees Act 1968

**TERMS OF REFERENCE TO THE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

WORKCOVER PREMIUMS FOR 2000-01

That pursuant to the *Parliamentary Committees Act 1968*, the Economic Development Committee be required to inquire into, consider and report on WorkCover premiums for 2000-01, including:

- the reasons for the level of those premiums;
- the manner in which those premiums were determined, both in aggregate and for individual industry classifications and employers;
- the impact which those premiums have had and can be expected to have on economic activity and employment in aggregate and in metropolitan, regional and rural Victoria;
- the impact which those premiums have had and can be expected to have on the State budget and on the provision of services by Government departments and agencies, by local government and by non-profit and community organisations;
- whether the Government can or should take action to reduce or compensate for any such adverse impacts;
- what changes should be made to the manner in which WorkCover premiums are determined in future;

and to provide an interim report to Parliament by 30 November 2000 and a final report to Parliament by 31 March 2001.

By resolution of the Legislative Council

Dated: 6 September 2000

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
INQUIRY INTO WORKCOVER PREMIUMS FOR 2000/2001**

INTERIM REPORT

1. Purpose of Interim Report

This Interim Report provides a progress report of the Economic Development Committee's Inquiry into WorkCover Premiums for 2000/2001.

At this point in time, the Committee has not reached a position whereby any findings or recommendations can be reported to Parliament. The Committee's Final Report, including findings and recommendations, will be tabled in Parliament by 31st March 2001.

2. Terms of Reference

On 6th September 2000, the Economic Development Committee received a Terms of Reference by resolution of the Legislative Council, to inquire into WorkCover Premiums for 2000/2001. The Inquiry includes investigations into the reasons for the level of premiums, the manner in which the premiums were determined and the likely economic impact of the premiums.

The Terms of Reference requires the Committee to table an interim report to Parliament by 30th November 2000 and a final report to Parliament by 31st March 2001.

3. Inquiry Process

The Committee called for written submissions by advertising the Terms of Reference in the major daily papers on 13th November 2000 and wrote to a number of key organisations and individuals seeking written submissions. The deadline for final submissions is 31st December 2000. To date, 33 written submissions have been received (see Appendix 1).

During September and October, the Committee was occupied with meetings and public hearings in relation to its *Inquiry into the Impact of the GST on Small and Medium Sized Businesses in Victoria*. The extensive deliberations on this Report (tabled on 2nd November 2000) precluded the Committee from making any substantial progress with the WorkCover Inquiry.

To date, the Committee has received informal background briefings from Taylor Fry Consulting Actuaries and PricewaterhouseCoopers on the manner in which the current premiums were established. These briefings were designed to provide the Committee with an understanding of the premium systems prior to commencement of formal public hearings.

Public hearings commenced on 27th November 2000 with the Victorian WorkCover Authority giving evidence to the Committee. Further public hearings, including hearings in Geelong, Ballarat and Bendigo, are scheduled to take place throughout December. Witnesses will include employer and industry groups, local businesses and union representatives.

The Committee will be continuing its program of public hearings early in 2001 with the aim of tabling a final report to Parliament by 31st March 2001.

27th November 2000

Appendix 1

LIST OF WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED

Submission Number	Name of Individual/Organisation	Date Received
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1.	Mr Vic Bedin Managing Director Peninsula Curtains	5 October 2000
2.	K. Dean President Green Triangle Injured Support Group Inc.	6 October 2000
3.	Dr Chris Baker Specialist in Occupational Medicine Dr Chris Baker & Associates Pty Ltd	6 October 2000
4.	Mr Fred Maddern Executive Director The Australian Vietnamese Services Resource Centre	9 October 2000
5.	Mr Andrew Gourlay Manager Main Street Deli	10 October 2000
6.	Mr John Warton Director Deltaline Nominees Pty. Ltd.	11 October 2000
7.	Mr Daniel M. Ferey Managing Director Australian Jewellery Company	11 October 2000

8.	J Bucknall Connor House Respite Care Service Inc. Treasurer	16 October 2000
9.	A D Morphett B D S Panels Proprietor	16 October 2000
10.	Alison Sutherland & Myles Sutherland E.W. Hogan Moving & Storage	17 October 2000
11.	T.H. Forbes Manager Pyramid Hill Bush Nursing Hospital	18 October 2000
12.	J.T. & M.A. Monkhouse Taxi Driver	20 October 2000
13.	Ms Jillian Carson Chief Executive Officer Churches of Christ Community Care	25 October 2000
14.	Mr John Glover Executive Director Group Training Australia	26 October 2000
15.	Ms Jacki Miller	30 October 2000

	Human Resource Manager Coogi Australia Pty Ltd	
16.	Ms Nancy J. Hogan Chief Executive Officer Mecwa	30 October 2000
17.	Mr Andrew Adams Secretary North-East & Border Trades and Labour Council	30 October 2000
18.	Mr David Eynon Executive Director Air Conditioning & Mechanical Contractors' Association of Victorian Limited	31 October 2000
19.	Ms Sue Jackson Executive Officer Council of Intellectual Disability Agencies	31 October 2000
20.	Ms Jennifer Flanagan Executive Officer Master Grocers Association of Victoria	31 October 2000
21.	Mr Paul Linossier Chief Executive Officer MacKillop Family Services	31 October 2000

22.	Mr Geoff Atkins General Insurance Practice Leader Trowbridge Consulting	1 November 2000
23.	Ms Michelle Green Executive Director Private Hospitals Association of Victoria	1 November 2000
24.	Mr Simon Garnett Acting President Australian Plaintiff Lawyers Association	1 November 2000
25.	Ms Coleen Clare Chief Executive Officer Children's Welfare Association of Victorian Inc.	1 November 2000
26.	Mr Richard Cumpston Partner Cumpston Sarjeant Pty Ltd - Consulting Actuaries	1 November 2000
27.	Mr Bill Mountford Chief Executive Victorian WorkCover Authority	1 November 2000
28.	Ms Mary Johnson Director The Blue Dandenongs Bulb Farm	3 November 2000

29.	Mr Phillip Horne Manager Master Plumbers and Mechanical Services Association of Australia	6 November 2000
30.	Mr Geoff Leigh, MP Shadow Minister for Transport Member for Mordialloc Victorian Parliament	6 November 2000
31.	Ms Sandra de Wolf Chief Executive Officer Berry Street Victoria	9 November 2000
32.	Mr Neil Coulson Group General Manager Policy & Strategy	13 November 2000
33.	Mr Peter Brand Farmer	14 November 2000