

Inquiry into WorkCover Premiums for 2000/2001

ORDERED TO BE PRINTED

MARCH 2001

by Authority.

Government Printer for the State of Victoria

No. 68 - Session 1999/2001

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MEMBERS

Hon. Neil Lucas, P.S.M., M.L.C. (Chairman)

Hon. Theo Theophanous, M.L.C. (Deputy Chairman)

Hon. Ron Best, M.L.C.

Hon. Andrea Coote, M.L.C.

Hon. Geoff Craige, M.L.C.

Hon. Kaye Darveniza, M.L.C.

Hon. John McQuilten, M.L.C.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH STAFF

Mr R. Willis, Executive Officer

Ms T. Esposito, Office Manager

Mr M. Ryan, Research Officer

Ms K. Ellingford, Research Officer

The Committee's Address is:

Level 8

35 Spring Street

MELBOURNE 3000

Telephone: (03) 9651 3592

Facsimile: (03) 9651 3691

E-mail: edc@parliament.vic.gov.au

Website: <https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/edevc>

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:

- a. the reasons for the level of those premiums;
- b. the manner in which those premiums were determined, both in aggregate and for individual industry classifications and employers;
- c. 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;
- d. 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;
- e. whether the Government can or should take action to reduce or compensate for any such adverse impacts;
- f. 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 NO.2

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.

The Committee tabled a brief interim report in Parliament on 29th November 2000. This report provided a progress of the Committee's Inquiry in order to meet the reporting requirement for an interim report. At that stage, the Committee had not reached a position whereby any findings or recommendations could be reported to Parliament.

In view of the large volume of evidence being gathered by the Committee, particularly from businesses throughout Victoria, the Committee has been unable to complete its investigations in time to table a final report by 31st March 2001. Accordingly, it is necessary to table a second interim report providing an update of the Inquiry's progress. The list of written submissions and public hearings provided in the attached appendices highlights the extent of the Committee's work to date.

The Committee is planning a final series of regional hearings in north-east Victoria during late March. Additional public hearings will be conducted during April with key organisations and individuals.

The Committee's final report will be tabled later in the 2001 Autumn Session.

7th March 2001

Appendix 1

LIST OF WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED

Submission Number	Name of Individual/Organisation	Date Received
1.	Mr Vic Bedin Managing Director Peninsula Curtains	5 October 2000
2.	K. Dean President	6 October 2000

	Green Triangle Injured Support Group Inc.	
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	16 October 2000

	Proprietor	
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 Human Resource Manager Coogi Australia Pty Ltd	30 October 2000
16.	Ms Nancy J. Hogan Chief Executive Officer Mecwa	30 October 2000
17.	Mr Andrew Adams	30 October 2000

	<p>Secretary</p> <p>North-East & Border Trades and Labour Council</p>	
18.	<p>Mr David Eynon</p> <p>Executive Director</p> <p>Air Conditioning & Mechanical Contractors' Association of Victorian Limited</p>	31 October 2000
19.	<p>Ms Sue Jackson</p> <p>Executive Officer</p> <p>Council of Intellectual Disability Agencies</p>	31 October 2000
20.	<p>Ms Jennifer Flanagan</p> <p>Executive Officer</p> <p>Master Grocers Association of Victoria</p>	31 October 2000
21.	<p>Mr Paul Linossier</p> <p>Chief Executive Officer</p> <p>MacKillop Family Services</p>	31 October 2000
22.	<p>Mr Geoff Atkins</p> <p>General Insurance Practice Leader</p> <p>Trowbridge Consulting</p>	1 November 2000
23.	<p>Ms Michelle Green</p> <p>Executive Director</p> <p>Private Hospitals Association of Victoria</p>	1 November 2000

24.	<p>Mr Simon Garnett</p> <p>Acting President</p> <p>Australian Plaintiff Lawyers Association</p>	<p>1 November 2000</p>
25.	<p>Ms Coleen Clare</p> <p>Chief Executive Officer</p> <p>Children's Welfare Association of Victorian Inc.</p>	<p>1 November 2000</p>
26.	<p>Mr Richard Cumpston</p> <p>Partner</p> <p>Cumpston Sarjeant Pty Ltd – Consulting Actuaries</p>	<p>1 November 2000</p>
27.	<p>Mr Bill Mountford</p> <p>Chief Executive</p> <p>Victorian WorkCover Authority</p>	<p>1 November 2000</p>
28.	<p>Ms Mary Johnson</p> <p>Director</p> <p>The Blue Dandenongs Bulb Farm</p>	<p>3 November 2000</p>
29.	<p>Mr Phillip Horne</p> <p>Manager</p> <p>Master Plumbers and Mechanical Services Association of Australia</p>	<p>6 November 2000</p>
30.	<p>Mr Geoff Leigh, MP</p> <p>Shadow Minister for Transport</p> <p>Member for Mordialloc</p>	<p>6 November 2000</p>

	Victorian Parliament	
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 Owner Shenstone	14 November 2000
34.	Paul Kirkpatrick Chief Executive Officer Peter Harcourt Services	29 November 2000
35.	Stephen Hayden Proprietor Haydon Floors	1 December 2000
36.	Doug Issell Chief Executive Officer Cobden District Health Services Inc.	1 December 2000
37.	Ian Johnson Manager - Risk Management & Human Resource	5 December 2000

	City of Greater Bendigo	
38.	Hans Roleff Octa Nominees Pty Ltd	4 December 2000
39.	Paul Green Chief Executive Officer CVGT Employment and Training Specialists	5 December 2000
40.	Miller Brothers Industries	12 December 2000
41.	Irene Stephen Company Secretary Stephen Pasture Seeds	13 December 2000
42.	Graeme Porter Captain's Bobcat and Tipper Hire Pty Ltd	13 December 2000
43.	Peter Doak Business Manager Arthur Reed Photos Pty Ltd	18 December 2000
44.	Mr Gary Bourke Human Resources Manager Surfcoast Shire Council	18 December 2000
45.	Hans Roleff Octa Nominees Pty Ltd	18 December 2000

46.	Robert Anderson Managing Director Zep International Pty Ltd	19 December 2000
47.	Phillip Lovel Executive Director Victorian Road Transport Association Inc.	19 December 2000
48.	John Nixon Chairperson Uniting Church Lodge Program	20 December 2000
49.	David Keenan Director Economic Development Warrnambool City Council	20 December 2000
50.	G Greenwood Chief Executive Officer The Victorian and Murray Valley Wine Grape Growers Council Inc.	21 December 2000
51.	Graeme Gooding Executive Director Victorian Association of Forrest Industries	22 December 2000
52.	Peter Lewis Director Continental Kosher Butchers Pty Ltd	2 January 2001

53.	Judy Hartcher Business Policy Adviser CPA Australia	2 January 2001
54.	Gary Barge Director Finance & Administration Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board	4 January 2001
55.	Martyn Edwards Office Manager F. & I. Baguley Flower & Plant Growers	8 January 2001
56.	Jonathon Lock Manager, Human Resources Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind	9 January 2001
57.	Hans Roleff Octa Nominees Pty Ltd	10 January 2001
58.	John Byrne Individual	15 January 2001
59.	Dan Dubois Mildura Special Accommodation House	24 January 2001
60.	Laurie Miller Executive Director The Geelong Chamber of Commerce	19 December 2000

61.	Dr Forbes J. Smith Medical Director NABENET Integrated Rehabilitation Services	14 February 2001
62.	Toni McKenzie Human Resource Manager Grizzly Engineering Pty Ltd	16 February 2001
63.	Arthur Shoppee Managing Director Luv-A-Duc	13 March 2001
64.	Alex Egan Midfield Meat Warrnambool	14 March 2001

List of Public Hearings

27th November 2000 (Melbourne)

Professor Robert Officer, Chairman; and Mr Bill Mountford, Chief Executive Officer, **Victorian WorkCover Authority**

4th December 2000 (Melbourne)

- Mr David Gregory, General Manager; and Ms Anita Kaminski, WorkCover Adviser, **Victorian Employers Chamber of Commerce and Industry**
- Mr Paul Fennelly, Director; and Mr Paul Deakin, Senior Adviser OHS/WorkCover, **Australian Industry Group**
- Mr Leigh Hubbard, Secretary; and Mr Jarrod Moran, WorkCover Liaison Officer, **Victorian Trades Hall Council**

12th December 2000 (Geelong)

- Mr Laurie Miller, Secretary, **Geelong Chamber of Commerce**
- Mr Fred Ruggeri, Manager; and Mr Les Cropley, WorkCover Manager, **Brentwood Nursing Home**
- Ms Anne Lord, Risk Management Coordinator, **Greater Geelong City Council**

- Ms Samantha Patterson, Risk Management Officer; and Mr Chris Knight, OHS Consultant, **Colac-Otway Shire Council**
- Mr John James, General Manager, Business Services, **St Lawrence Community Services**
- Mr Graeme Esler, Regional Manager, Geelong Branch, **Victorian Employers Chamber of Commerce and Industry**
- Mr John Kranz, Secretary, **Geelong and Region Trades and Labour Council**
- Mr Craig Herbert, OHS Manager; and Mr Peter Ansell, Manager, Legal Affairs, **Godfrey Hirst Australia Pty Ltd**
- Mr Anthony Spira, Managing Director; and Mr Peter Walsh, Financial Controller, **Geelong Wool Combing Ltd.**
- Mr Ted Ridgwell, Administration Manager, **Josie's Transport**

12th December 2001 (Ballarat)

- Mr Stewart, Director; and Mrs Diane Stewart, **Wendouree Cleaning Services**
- Mr Graeme Shearer, Secretary, **Ballarat Regional Trades and Labour Council**
- Ms Tracey Browne, Group Manager, Health, Safety and Environment, **Bendix Mintex Pty Ltd**
- Mr Peter O'Brien, Manager, Employee Services, **Ballarat City Council**
- Mr Trevor Ryan, Owner/Proprietor, **Designer Commercial Furniture**
- Mr Ian Manton, Managing Director; and Mr Grant Harvey, Finance Director, **Valcor Australia Sales Pty Ltd**
- Mr Brian Hughes, Manager, **Ausworkforce Pty Ltd and Vic Brand Road Surfacing Pty Ltd**
- Mr Andrew Wibberley, General Manager, Manufacturing; and Ms Kate Muir, Group Human Resource Manager, **Maxitrans Australia Pty Ltd**
- Mr Graeme Cann, Manager, **Australian Valve and Engineering**

13th December 2001 (Bendigo)

- Mr Brain Young, **Shearing Contractor**
- Mr Paul Green, Chief Executive Officer; and Mr Robert Trew, General Manager, **Finance, CVGT Employment and Training**
- Mr Michael Antolos, Assistant Managing Director, **Pacific Textiles**
- Mr Daryl Rodgers, Accountant, **Blackforest Timbers**
- Ms Robyn Smith-Clark, Risk Manager; and Mr Kevin Gill, General Manager, **Frew Kyneton Pty Ltd**
- Mr Alec Sander, Owner/Proprietor, **Strathvillage Newsagency**
- Mr Andrew Moyle, Owner, **Colonial Leather**
- Ms Karen Kyle, Secretary, **Bendigo Trades Hall Council**
- Mr Charles Barton, Owner, **Rositas**

18th December 2000 (Moorabbin)

- Mr Peter Bancroft, Managing Director; and Mrs Iurato, Financial Controller, **Sticky Products**
- Mr Anthony Abbott, Proprietor, **Nanson Nominees**
- Mr Peter Beattie, Director; and Ms Lisa Fink, Secretary, **Natures Gift Australia**
- Mr Peter Patroni, Managing Director, **Kinetic Technology International Pty Ltd**
- Mr Robin Dannals, Operations Manager, **Timberstock Trading Pty Ltd**
- Mr Craig Mighell, Director, **All Torque Transmissions Australasia Pty Ltd**
- Mr Peter Leipnik, Managing Director, **The Specialty Group**
- Ms Cheryl Evans, Director; and Mr John Long, Director, **The Elly-Kay Centre**
- Ms Margaret Aivatoglou, Proprietor; and Mr Frank Nugent, External Accountant, **Evangelia Aged Care Facility**
- Mr Peter Clark, Director, **Belle Design and Manufacturing**
- Mrs Jan Waller, Owner, **Waller's Cakes**
- Mr Matthew Mahon, Accountant, **Fans Direct**

29th January 2001 (Mildura)

- Mr Ken McLeod, Managing Director, **Strap Engineering**
- Mr Graeme Burrows, Owner, **Graeme Burrows Jewellers**
- Mr Ross Lake, **Tasco Inland Australia**
- Mr John Judd; Ms Helen Munro; and Ms Donna Brown, **United Panel Works and John Judd Industries**
- Mr Graeme Martin, **Martin Petroleum**
- Mr Stone, **G.D. and S.I. Stone Pty Ltd**

31st January 2001 (Swan Hill)

- Mr Gary Lowe, Owner; and Mr Chris Wood, **Lowes Windows**
- Mrs Sue Duguid, **A. Duguid and Co. Pty Ltd**
- Ms Wendy McAllister, and Ms Toni McKenzie, **Grizzly Engineering Pty Ltd**
- Mr Ian Fisher, Chief Executive Officer, **Swan Hill District Hospital**
- Mrs Lucy Packer; and Ms Wendy Blair, **Swan Hill Chemicals**
- Mr Tony Pumpa, Director; and Ms Khan, Accountant, **Pumpa Engineering**

19th February 2001 (Warragul)

- Mr Chris Buckingham, President, **Moe Development Group**

Ms Kerry Elliot, **Mawarra Centre** Mr Ted Brorsen, Owner; and Ms Lindsay Wright, **Tabro Meats**

- Mr Darryl Donaldson, Director; and Mr Phil Edwards, **Liftmaster Strong Arm Australia**
- Mr Laurie Jensen, Proprietor, **Tarago River Cheese Pty Ltd**

Mr Darren Sharp, Owner; and Mr Rene Schaffer, National Meats Association, **Radford Abattoirs**

- Mr Haja Mohideen, Director of Finance; and Mr Brian Lemmon, **Occupational Health and Safety Manager, West Gippsland Hospital**

19th February 2001 (Traralgon)

Mrs Diane Blackwood, Owner, **Blackwood Engineering** Ms Toni Wakefield, Financial Controller, **Safetech**

- Mr Peter Foster, **National Logistics Coordinators**
- Mr Gordan Rorison, Business Manager, **Gippsland Aeronautics**

20th February 2001 (Sale)

Mr Gary George, Proprietor, **Pinky's Pizza**

- Mr Geoff Lindrea, Manager, **G & S Machining**

Mr John Castle, Principal, **John Castle and Associates** Ms Emilie Falkiner, Human Resource Officer; and Mr Don Rabbah, Risk Management Coordinator, **Wellington Shire Council**

- Mr Peter Brand, Owner, **Shenstone**

Mr Brian Gordyn, Owner/Manager, **Gordyn Abattoirs** Mr Ian Dietrich, Proprietor, **Maffra Licensed IGA Supermarket**

- Mr Bernie McLoughlan, Administration Manager, **Neville Smith Timber Industries**

23rd February 2001 (City of Banyule)

Mr Matt Greaves, Management Accountant; and Ms Freda Krocari, Human Resource Coordinator, **Insulform Pty Ltd** Mr Michael Plymin, Owner, **Henlor Sheet Metal and Roofing Pty Ltd** Mr Colin Risstrom, Managing Director; and Mr David Woodgate, **Britex Group** Ms Maureen McKenzie, Director; and Mr Rodney McKenzie, Managing Director, **The Graffiti Eaters Pty Ltd**

- Mr Andrew Bryant, Manager, **Bryson Stainless Steel Fabrication**
- Ms Gael Knight, Office Manager, **Carpenter's Body Works and Modern Towing and Salvage (Aust) Pty Ltd**

6th March 2001 (Portland)

- Mr Robert Tozer, Financial Controller, **Keppell Prince Engineering**
- Mr Robert McPherson, **McPherson Plumbing Contractors Pty Ltd**
- Ms Kerry Dean, President; and Mr Iain Grant, Public Officer, **Green Triangle Injured Persons Support Group**

6th March 2001 (Warrnambool)

- Cr David Atkinson, Mayor; Mr Lindsay Merritt, Chief Executive Officer; and Mr David Keenan, Director Economic Development, **Warrnambool City Council**
- Mr Maurice Clarke, Managing Director; and Mr Terry McLennan, Finance Manager, **Clarke's Pies**
- Mrs Yvonne Bartlett, Owner, **BAM Stone**; and Mr Jay McGrath, Managing Director, **McGrath Consulting**
- Mr Chris Nolan, Chief Executive, **Warrnambool Racing Club**
- Mr Gavin Daniels, General Manager, **McDonalds**

Mr Bill McKinniss, Financial Planner and Counsellor, **Community Connections** Mr Brian Delaney, Owner, **Swinton's Carpet**

7th March 2001 (Colac)

- Mrs Mary Neal, **Neal's Transport**
- Mr Ken McCoombe, Human Resource Manager;
- Mr John Scarrott, Director of Finance; and Ms Jan Ross, Chief Executive Officer, **Colac**

Community Health Services

- Ms Lynette Genua, **Genua Brothers Steel Merchants**
- Mr Dean Watson, **CM Timbers**
- Mr Terence Loughnane, Partner, **Terence's Property Services**