

Friday, 15 January 2010

Leadership to change at WorkCoverSA

WorkCover Board Chair, Philip Bentley today announced that CEO Julia Davison has notified the WorkCover Board and the Minister for Industrial Relations of her intention to leave the role mid-year.

Ms Davison has been in the role for six years and during this time she has led a major reform of the WorkCover system including:

- refocusing the Scheme on its core objective of return to work with incentives, proper measures and stronger community awareness of the importance of return to work
- radically reforming the agent and legal contracts with new and strategic partnerships that have delivered considerable savings and better outcomes for the Scheme
- implementing the government's legislative reform agenda paving the way for a Scheme that is fair to workers and affordable to employers.

After giving the matter considerable thought, Ms Davison said mid-year is the right time to leave.

“By the middle of the year legislative reform implementation will be complete, our major IT system will be implemented and we will be expecting further liability release for the Scheme. It will be a good time to hand over to a new Chief Executive who can develop the next five year strategic plan and build upon the reforms and initiatives that will continue to improve return to work for all South Australians”, Ms Davison said.

Board Chair Philip Bentley said Ms Davison had brought clear direction and leadership to the Scheme during a period of intense change.

“Julia has done a sterling job as Chief Executive for WorkCover. In addition to delivering the largest legislative reforms in WorkCover's history, she has also established strong, strategic partnerships that have strengthened capability in the Scheme, put the foundations in place to deliver improved outcomes for the State's injured workers and their employers, and in the last two years has achieved significant liability release,” he said.

Mr Bentley confirmed that a comprehensive recruitment exercise for a new Chief Executive will soon be underway in order to ensure an appropriate hand over from Ms Davison.

“Ms Davison’s announcement provides the WorkCover Board with ample time to find a new CEO to build upon the most significant reforms the Scheme has ever seen.”

“In the meantime, the Board remains focused on the long-term sustainability of the Scheme and we look forward to working with Ms Davison over the next six months and her successor thereafter to continue to improve case management and return to work outcomes in South Australia”, Mr Bentley said.

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