

WorkCover Update



Keeping you up to date on the latest workers' compensation news and information.

Important legislative changes now in effect

Last year, the Queensland Government published the [final report](#) of an independent review of the state's workers' compensation scheme. This review happens every five years, in line with the Government's commitment to ensuring a contemporary and sustainable scheme.



Based on recommendations from this review, the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 was passed by the Queensland Parliament on 22

August 2024, taking effect on 23 August 2024.

New workers' compensation laws expand the scope of cancers deemed to be work-related for Queensland firefighters, and further improve early intervention and support for workers to prevent the development of secondary mental injuries.

We have outlined some of the key changes for employers in our stories below. You can read more about the [Workers' Compensation and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024](#) (the Amendment Act) via the button below.

Read more

Legislative changes - What you need to know

Increased penalties for employers who do not take reasonable steps to provide suitable duties

Offering workplace rehabilitation ([suitable duties](#)) is an obligation for all Queensland employers. The *Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003* says that when a worker has a claim, employers must take all “*reasonable steps to assist or provide the worker with rehabilitation*”.



The Act also says that if you cannot provide suitable duties for your worker, you must give the insurer a written notice with supporting evidence. If you don't provide sufficient evidence, greater penalties may now apply under the Amendment Act.

Talk to us if you are unsure what suitable duties you can provide, as we may be able to offer guidance and additional support to help you meet your [obligations](#). Find information on developing a suitable duties program and a plan [template](#) on our [website](#).

[Read more](#)

The importance of early wage submission

To calculate a worker's [weekly compensation](#) payment, we need [specific wage details from you](#). We'll send a written notice requesting this information at claim registration on each time loss claim.



You will have 5 business days to respond to this notice. If you don't provide wage details within this timeframe, [penalties](#) may apply.

Early wage submission helps us process compensation quickly, allowing workers to focus on their recovery and return to work. Sending wage details to us early has no bearing on the claim decision.

[Read more](#)

New basic weekly payment when wage details are not provided

If we don't have the necessary wage details to calculate a worker's weekly benefit and you're not continuing to pay them, we'll start making a [Basic Weekly Payment \(BWP\)](#) to the worker.



This payment begins on the 6th business day after we approve the application for compensation or at the end of the [excess](#) period, whichever comes later.

We will continue to provide the BWP until we receive the necessary wage details to determine the worker's weekly benefit. We can't close a claim until the weekly benefit is calculated.

[Read more](#)

In other news...

October is Safe Work Month - Get involved!

Don't miss out on your opportunity to show your commitment to improving work health and safety and return to work outcomes in your workplace.

Register for a Safe Work Month event this coming October and hear from expert speakers on a diverse range of topics. Events are either in-person or online depending on the event and where you are based.

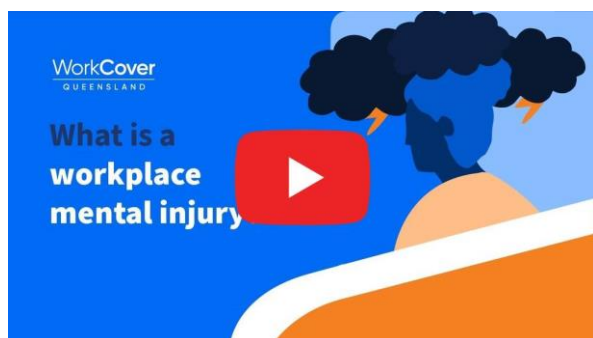


[Read more](#)

New mental injury resources

Workers who feel supported by their employer are up to five times more likely to return to work. But navigating a mental injury claim and looking after the mental health of a worker with a physical injury can be overwhelming.

To help you better understand work-



related mental injuries and support your workers get back to work safely, we've created practical resources specifically designed for employers.

You'll find the first four videos and factsheets below.

[Read more](#)

Mental Health Week is almost here (5 - 13 October)

Celebrated annually in October, [Queensland Mental Health Week](#) promotes the importance of mental health and wellbeing and aims to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness.



Workplace Health and Safety Queensland is hosting a range of events for Mental Health Week. Register to join in-person and FREE livestream events below.

[Read more](#)

Need advice?

For independent and free advice, employers can call the Workers' Compensation Employer Helpline on 1300 365 855 or [visit the website](#).

More changes now in place - *Work Health and Safety Amendment Act 2024*

On 29 July 2024, important changes to the [Work Health and Safety Act 2011](#), [Safety in Recreational Water Activities Act 2011](#) and the [Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011](#) came into effect.



The latest changes clarify the work health and safety legislative framework and follow earlier changes that commenced on 28 March and 20 May 2024. The primary focus of these changes is to strengthen worker protection and representation, while also encouraging the uptake of health and safety representatives (HSRs) in the workplace.

You can read more about these changes below. Workplace Health and Safety Queensland has also released a [communications kit](#) with helpful FAQs, key messages and resources.

[Read more](#)

Work Well Conference is back in Brisbane on 22 October

The [full-day conference](#) focuses on connection and collaboration and will include a lineup of industry speakers. [Buy](#) your tickets today!

Contact us

In Australia: 1300 362 128
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Contact hours: Monday to Friday 8 am to 5:30 pm
(Local time Brisbane, Australia)

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