

## CLAUSE NOTES

### *Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Amendment Bill 2019*

#### Background:

The Bill amends the *Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* to remove wage step-down provisions in sections 69B(1)(b) and (c) that apply to workers incapacitated by a work injury where the worker is a police officer and the injury is suffered in an operational context.

#### PART I – PRELIMINARY

**Clause 1: Short title**

Specifies the name of the proposed Act.

**Clause 2: Commencement**

Specifies that the Act commences on the day it receives the Royal Assent.

**Clause 3: Principal Act**

Specifies that the *Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* is referred to as the Principal Act.

**Clause 4: Section 69B amended (Period for which benefits are payable)**

Amends Section 69B of the Principal Act, by adding a new sub-clause (2DA) which removes reductions in the rate of weekly compensation payable, where a worker who is a police officer is injured as a result of circumstances arising from their duties as a police officer.

The clause is intended to capture injuries where the circumstances that result in them are associated with the policing role, but not to injuries where the circumstances would be equally likely had the employee not been a police officer. It will ensure that police officers who are incapacitated by an operational-related injury continue to receive 100 per cent of their wages payable.

The clause does not remove the maximum period over which compensation is payable, as set out in Section 69B(1)(c).

**Clause 5: Section 164BB inserted (Application of *Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Amendment Act 2019*)**

This clause stipulates the step-down provisions are only removed for new claims for compensation under the *Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* which follow the commencement of the amendment Act.

**Clause 6: Repeal of Act**

Repeals this amendment Act 365 days after it commences.