

Public Service Association of New South Wales

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By email

The Hon. Dominic Perrottet, MP
Minister for Finance & Services
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

The Hon Brad Hazzard, MP
Attorney General & Minister for Justice
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Ministers,

I am writing to you regarding a matter raised with you during our recent meeting. I refer to the way Pre-Injury Average Weekly Earnings (PIAWE) under Workers Compensation are being calculated and paid.

I intend to include this matter in a submission to you on Workers Compensation, however, I believe the method of calculation is open to interpretation and it may be able to be resolved without legislative change.

It is our position that the PIAWE should be applied to the actual time lost to Workers Compensation. That is to say, that a worker who has one day Workers Compensation due to an injury, that the PIAWE be paid as PIAWE of one day's wages, not PIAWE of one week's wages.

In a recent example of the negative impact of the Department of Corrective Services method of calculation, an officer assisting an inmate who had set his cell on fire was burnt and required medical attention. This officer had \$588 deducted from his pay. The deduction from this officer's salary has resulted in an angry reaction from his colleagues and subsequent bans and limitations in the workplace.

The Department's interpretation of lost time calculations is a significant issue due to the number of officers losing money from their pay. This is causing a great deal of discord among Correctional Officers and could result in workers seeking to have more time on Workers Compensation than they would ordinarily need.

We seek your urgent assistance with this matter.

Should you require any further information please contact Steve McMahon on 0418251790.

Yours faithfully,

ANNE GARDINER
GENERAL SECRETARY

26 February 2015