



Office of the Hon Brad Hazzard MP
Attorney General
Minister for Justice

D2015/087013

Ms Anne Gardiner
General Secretary
Public Service Association
160 Clarence Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Attention: Mr Steve McMahon
Chair Prison Officers Vocational Branch

Dear Ms Gardiner

I refer to the meeting with Minister Perrottet and myself and PSA representatives on Friday, 6 February 2015 to discuss PSA concerns regarding the current Workers Compensation legislation and its impact on Corrective Services staff.

I wish to confirm that matters which lie within the responsibilities of the Department of Justice (Corrective Services NSW) have been addressed and further work will commence on improving the return to work arrangements for injured workers. I understand that representatives from different vocational branches, in particular the POVB, continue to work with departmental representatives on the details.

As Minister Perrottet indicated during the meeting, he would welcome a submission from the PSA regarding matters relating to the Workers Compensation legislation which are of particular concern.

I understand that this relates in particular to the Pre Injury average weekly earnings (PIAWE) for injured workers who are only absent from the work place for short periods of time, matters relating to the degree of injury suffered as well as the strongly held view that correctional staff should be afforded the same exemptions under the legislation that currently apply to Police and Emergency Services.

I hereby confirm that I am and will continue to be supportive of these initiatives and will advise the Minister responsible for the Workers Compensation legislation accordingly.

As it was outlined in the meeting, Minister Perrottet intends to introduce an amendment to the current Act after the State Election and that would provide an opportunity to include those matters which are agreed to by Government. You are obviously aware that there is no possibility to make any legislative change prior to the March State Election.

I confirm that I remain committed to constructively assist the PSA and correctional services staff in their endeavours to put to Government constructive suggestions to improve current Workers Compensation arrangements for staff working in Corrective Services NSW.

Please do not hesitate to contact me in case you wish to discuss any of these matters or seek further clarification.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Hazzard', written in a cursive style.

BRAD HAZZARD MP
Attorney General

16.2.15