



Welcome to the SRCLA – September 2019 Newsletter

Our first two newsletters have been well received by members. If you have any feedback or any items you would like included in a newsletter please advise Agnes - agnescamilleri@outlook.com

SRCLA 10th Anniversary – New Branding

On 9 November 2009 the first formal meeting of the SRCLA was conducted. As we complete our 10th year of operation we have refreshed the SRCLA branding. Whilst this newsletter displays the new logo we have retained the original colour palette. Further branding detail will be provided at the 26/09/19 member meeting.

SRCLA Education Event 2019

Thanks to all members who attended the recent Education event held in Melbourne on 20 & 21 August 2019. We had record numbers in attendance and the feedback was very positive including: "Lots of new material. Great variety", "The speakers this year were excellent" and "Excellent event, very well organised". A big thank you to everyone involved in the organisation, and in particular, Cass Jenkins from BIS.

We also received some constructive feedback and ideas for future presentations which will be considered.

Peter Jensen presented on day two on the topic – What if your workplace was a place that made people well? Peter is running an Enabling Wellbeing Masterclass on 24/09/19 in Sydney and there will be a discounted fee for all SRCLA members. Agnes has sent out an email to members with relevant information. If you are interested in attending and didn't receive the email from Agnes, please touch base with Agnes.

Meeting with the SRC Commission RRSIL

Representatives from six different licensees participated in a RRSIL meeting on 31/07/19. The three key issues discussed in the meeting were:

1. LKPI 6 – the SRCLA proposed that targets 2 and 3 are removed. Target 1 set at 95% was a reliable indicator that management systems were working effectively. Three targets for one indicator was considered over regulation and not consistent with the risk being managed;
2. Provision of suitable duties – there was good discussion around an employer's obligation under s40 to take all reasonable steps to provide an employee with suitable employment; and

3. Early intervention programs and whether such programs masked safety performance. Licensee representatives were quick to highlight that early intervention programs provide employees with immediate medical treatment and support. They also support the health benefits of recovery at work.

Issue 1 will be considered by the SRCC at its meeting on 18/09/19. It is anticipated that issues 2 and 3 will be the subject of further discussion moving forward.

Section 41 Guidelines

The new s41 guidelines came into effect on 15/08/19. The SRCLA was successful in influencing the content of the final document – well done to the rehabilitation sub-committee and Rosemary Waldron-Hartfield from Moray & Agnew Lawyers. The guidelines are a legislative instrument and must be followed.

If any licensee has queries with the application of the guidelines please raise them at the member meeting on 26/09/19.

Update on the National Certificate of Capacity Project

In August Comcare provided an update to the SRCLA on progress with a national certificate of capacity. A draft certificate and information sheet was provided and this will be provided to members with the material for the upcoming member meeting. The SRCLA position is unchanged from earlier in the year in which we supported a national certificate. The HWCA will consider endorsing a national certificate at its November 2019 meeting.

It is understood that whilst a national certificate may be endorsed by HWCA there could be reluctance on the part of state schemes to adopt as it will create cost for minimal return.

Criteria and Operational Standards for Workplace Rehabilitation Providers

On 21 August the SRCLA Rehabilitation Sub-committee members met with the Comcare Director Scheme Projects to discuss the draft documents relating to this issue.

Feedback provided at the meeting was that the documents did not adequately reflect that a self-insured employer could also be a workplace rehab provider. There was also insufficient flexibility in the document wording to allow a rehabilitation program to address issues outside of return to work. The consultation period in this instance was very short however, Comcare has taken on board the feedback.



Licence Fee Cost Recovery Cycle

Whilst licence fees for FY20 have only just been finalised planning for FY21 has already commenced. A licence fee working party comprising representatives from licensees and Comcare has been in place for the past few years. Preliminary feedback from Comcare is that no change to the cost recovery model is planned for next year. Please let Agnes know if you have any questions with the licence fee methodology.

More News

- **Next SRCLA Member Meeting** will be prior to the LLF on 26/09/19 in Sydney. A meeting invitation has been sent to members.
- **SRCLA strategic plan** – our current plan concludes this year and we are now thinking about the future. Please send through any thoughts on what should be included.
- **SRCLA Honorary Legal Advisor** – the term of our current legal advisor Moray & Agnew Lawyers finishes at the end of the 2019 calendar year. It has been five years since Moray took up this role and Rosemary Waldron-Hartfield and the Moray team have provided fantastic support to the SRCLA. Action has been initiated to select a new advisor and we will let you know the outcome in the next month or so.
- **AAT Review Report** – in July an AAT review report was tabled in parliament. Whilst the review was not limited to SRC Act activity it did contain some contentious recommendations such as the removal of conference registrars which would leave alternative dispute resolution as a function of the members. Please contact Agnes if you would like to see a copy of the report.
- **Monash University's Insurance Work and Health Research Group on injured Australia workers' claims experiences** – Recently Monash University's Insurance Work and Health Research Group published analysis of injured Australian workers' claims experiences arising from the national RTW surveys. This issue will be included on the agenda of the 26/09/19 member meeting. Consideration will be given to inviting the Monash research team to present at a future member meeting.
- **National Council of Self Insurers (NCSI)** – the SRCLA is a member organisation of the NCSI. Other members include the various state self-insurer associations. The NCSI meets quarterly and the members share legislative and regulatory developments and other news relevant to each jurisdiction.
- **Website Update** – action is continuing to refine and build the content on our website. The new branding will be applied to the website to establish a consistent view of the SRCLA. Material such as minutes of meetings and newsletters can be sourced from the website. Available presentations from the 2019 Education event will be able to be sourced soon from the website (via Members section – log in required). Log in accounts for members who attended the event but who don't yet have log in accounts will also be arranged. Agnes will advise when this has occurred. Please contact Agnes if you have any queries concerning the website.
- **SRCC Deputy Commissioner** – Michael Halloran has resigned from the Deputy Commissioner role and a replacement is now being progressed. The Commissioner representing licensees has the authority to appoint a deputy.
- **Potential New Licensees** – prior to the federal election in May 2019 there was increased interest from organisations seeking to be declared eligible to apply for a self-insurance licence under the SRC Act. Since that time the SRCLA has received contact from one organisation expressing an interest in becoming a SRCLA member. Further action on affiliate and provisional membership is being progressed.
- **Meetings with Comcare CEO and Attorney General and Industrial Relations Representatives** - meetings with Sue Weston, Comcare CEO and Department representatives are currently being arranged and will occur in October 2019. It is expected that the first meeting with Sue Weston will cover some historical issues and the role of the SRCLA. Please advise Agnes if there are any specific issues your organisation feels should be raised in these meetings.
- **Permanent Impairment Training** – at the September meeting of the National Council of Self Insurers the SA Association indicated that MLCOA had recently provided training to its members on permanent impairment. The SRCLA could co-ordinate similar sessions for our members. Please advise Agnes if you would be interested in your team members attending permanent impairment training. Please also advise if there is any other training that the SRCLA could co-ordinate to assist your organisation.
- **Emerging Evidence Alerts** – Comcare is continuing to publish alerts on a regular basis. The issues covered in these alerts is relevant to our functions as self-insured licensees. Please take the time to read the alerts.
- **SRCC Meeting 18/09/19** – the September meeting of the SRCC will consider the performance of licensees against the LKPIs for FY19. This review can lead to encouragement letters and other regulatory action. If you have any queries or questions concerning regulatory action please remember that Louisa Hudson, the licensee Commissioner is available to discuss.