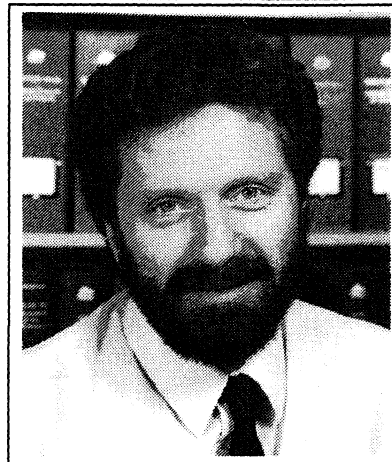


Work Health Authority Review Report Available



Law Week 1997 again put members of the profession in the role of providing information to the community during this focus on the law and I thank those of you who were involved. In particular, staff at the NTU's Faculty of Law deserve thanks for the effort that went into providing the hypothetical on Monday night. Equally, it was pleasing to see so many practitioners ready to be put on the spot in this very informative and enjoyable activity.

The launch of Law Week in the Mall was also well supported and again, I thank the profession for turning out to ensure that public attention was focused on Law Week. We were very pleased to have the Attorney-General, Mr Denis Burke, MLA present to officiate at the launch and I thank him, too, on behalf of the profession for his attendance and interest.

Again, the Law Week lunch attracted a record number of practitioners and we were fortunate in being able to secure the Parliament House Dining Room as a venue. Thanks go to the staff at Parliament House for their assistance and in particular, to the caterers, C & C Catering for their very professional service and fine food. Ian Barker, QC returned to the Territory as something of an elder statesman to speak at the lunch and his views were received with interest.

I also would like to record here gratitude to the major sponsors of the lunch and other Law Week activities - our PII insurers, Sedgwick and to Qantas, long time supporter of the Society which donated the major door prize.

For those not present at the lunch where I read the text of a letter of thanks from Lady Johanna Forster for the condolences book organised by the Society

as a tribute to her late husband, Sir William Forster, I include here that letter:

Dear Terry,

This is a late note to thank you and Jim Campbell for calling in on me to deliver the condolences book. I was most touched, particularly as it was unexpected. I spent a lot of time reading it after you left. I always think it's rather sad that people never get to hear or see what other people think of them until it's too late - perhaps sometimes just as well!

I thank you also for arranging the condolences book and would be pleased if you would tell people you see how much I have appreciated it and that I will always keep the book safely as a reminder of Bill's happy years in the Territory. I will try to come to Darwin before too long - I'm thinking of driving up some time.
Sincerely
Johanna Forster

Work Health

The Work Health Authority recently forwarded to the Society a copy of a report prepared by Transformation Management Services on the review of the workers' compensation dispute resolution processes that operate under the Work Health scheme in the Northern Territory.

The terms of reference were to:

1. Identify and document the current procedural requirements and actual practices relating to the handling and resolution of disputes;
2. Draw from existing documentation on best practices in the field of work

health dispute resolution, and identify opportunities for the adoption and implementation of appropriate changes that capture or improve on these best practices.

3. Examine and document the potential costs and benefits of possible changes to practices, regulations, rules or legislation. It is expected that the review would need to obtain a clear understanding of current costs, to support the identification of potential savings.
4. Make recommendations for changes that clearly indicate the expected improvements in terms of economy, efficiency, effectiveness or outcomes.
5. Identify any risks involved in the adoption and implementation of proposed changes and make recommendations for how these risks might be appropriately managed.
6. Provide advice on an appropriate system of performance measurement for monitoring the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of dispute resolution processes.

The Work Health Authority intends to run a public seminar to discuss the report's findings and a bulletin will be issued when details of the time place and venue are received.

If practitioners with a particular interest in the *Work Health Act* would like a copy of the report, please contact Janet Neville at the Law Society. Equally, if such practitioners would like to meet to discuss the report, please also contact Janet who will arrange a meeting at an appropriate time.