

BULLETIN 19 SEPTEMBER 2006

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Workers' Compensation Western Australia

**Bulletins 9, 17 and 19 remain current and should be retained.
All other bulletins may be discarded.**

Please file this bulletin behind guidecard **Bulletins**

Recent Benefit and Dispute Resolution changes in WA

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Introduction

The *Workers Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981* (WA) (the Act) provides for compensation in the form of income support, rehabilitation and medical expenses for workers who suffer work related injuries and disease in Western Australia. The Act was renamed in 2004 to reflect a legislative intention to focus on injury management and return to work. At the same time a range of adjustments were made to weekly payment entitlements and common law thresholds. On 14th November 2005 key dispute resolution provisions of the Act became operative.

Entitlements under the Act

As in most Australian jurisdictions the Act provides for weekly payments to be paid to workers who are incapacitated by an injury. Injury is defined to include injury by accident arising out of or in the course of the employment and diseases to which the employment is a significant contributing factor to the onset, recurrence or aggravation of the condition. Weekly payments are paid at the rate equivalent to the average weekly earnings up to a limit of twice the ABS average wage (currently \$1,609.90). After 13 weeks this payment is reduced to the award rate or approximately 85% of the average weekly earnings rate if the worker is not under an

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