

22 June 2018

Our ref: KB-ACTLC

Committee Secretary
Senate Education and Employment Committees
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600By email: eec.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary

The role of Commonwealth, state and territory Governments in addressing the high rates of mental health conditions experienced by first responders, emergency service workers and volunteers

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to this inquiry.

While we have been unable to provide a substantive response by the required date, we would like to call attention to one aspect of the "terms of reference". That is, to (c), "*the management of mental health conditions in first responder and emergency services organisations, factors that may impede adequate management of mental health within the workplace and opportunities for improvement, including*", (iii.) "*workers' compensation*".

We consider that this issue requires detailed consideration by the Committee, including identifying any gaps in the current provision of benefits by insurers. This may include assistance to manage the specific types of injuries and illnesses suffered by first responders which are not typically experienced by other workers.

We would also urge the Committee to consider what other insurance schemes may be captured by claims by first responders, for example, compulsory third party insurance schemes if an incident involved a motor vehicle accident.

We look forward to the publication of the Committee's report.

If you have any queries regarding the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact our Senior Policy Solicitor, Kate Brodnik on (07) 3842 5851 or k.brodnik@qls.com.au.

Yours faithfully


Ken Taylor
President