

24 May 2024

Our ref: KB:ILC

Committee Secretary
Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Committee Secretary

Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Thank you for inviting QLS to appear at the public hearing for the inquiry into the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 (**Bill**).

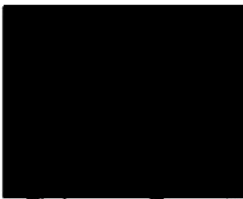
At the hearing, QLS sought to take a question from the Committee on notice. The question related to the proposed amendments to appeal pathways under the *Industrial Relations Act 2016 (IR Act)* and specifically, whether there was any alternative drafting that would address the access to justice concerns raised by QLS.

These concerns do not arise from the drafting, however, but rather from the practical impact that requiring more matters to be appealed to the Court of Appeal, instead of the Industrial Court, may have on the parties to those matters.

The explanatory material does not, in our view, provide sufficient information on the reasons for the amendments or the number of potential matters that may now need to be appealed to the Court of Appeal depending on the composition of the full bench of the Commission. It is unclear whether the potential impact on parties was considered when these amendments were being drafted.

Based on the available information, there is not a sufficiently compelling argument supporting this change when it is balanced against the access to justice concerns.

If you have any queries regarding the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact our Legal Policy team via policy@qls.com.au [REDACTED]


Rebecca Fogerty
President