



Victorian Local Governance Association

MEDIA RELEASE

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WorkCover for Councillors

For the first time in Victorian local government history, and as strongly advocated by the VLGA, elected councillors will be afforded WorkCover through the *Accident Compensation Act 1985*, if legislation introduced into Parliament last week is passed.

“To date municipal councillors are specifically excluded from the Act meaning that while carrying out council duties there is no WorkCover protection for councillors,” explained Cr Rose Iser, VLGA President.

“The *Accident Compensation Amendment Bill 2009*, amongst other things, removes this exemption providing cover for councillors if they are injured while carrying out duties as a councillor.

“The Bill provides sufficient time for regulations and guidelines to be drawn up so that councils and councillors have clear understandings about how the scheme would operate – for example, defining a councillor’s workplace, clarifying responsibilities, managing second positions of employment, etc.

“The VLGA congratulates Ministers Holding and Wynne for pursuing this amendment on behalf of Victoria’s 650 municipal councillors.

“Councillors across Victoria have expressed their desire to see this change and we appreciate the amendments that have now been introduced to Parliament with the

intention of delivering this improvement to councillor working conditions and providing cover for the very, very few occasions when councillors may endure accidents at their workplace,” concluded Cr Rose Iser.

The relevant sections of the Bill would come into operation on 1 July 2010 providing time for appropriate regulations and guidelines to be developed.

The Bill also specifies that there is no entitlement to mental injury resulting from a Code of Conduct hearing or application under s.81B of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

For further information or comment, contact Cr Rose Iser on 0414 959 427.