

MANPOWER[®]

Scanned copy of submission

30 September, 2003

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Mr Mike Woods
Presiding Commissioner
National Workers Compensation and
OH&S Inquiry Productivity Commission
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Dear Mike,

National Workers' Compensation and Occupational Health & Safety Framework

As an active advocate of a national framework for workers compensation, Manpower Services (Australia) Pty Ltd (Manpower) eagerly anticipates the interim report on National Workers' Compensation and Occupational Health & Safety Frameworks.

About Manpower

Manpower is a wholly owned subsidiary of Manpower International, a USA headquartered global staffing organisation providing staffing and workforce management solutions around the world. Manpower has been represented in Australia for over three decades. It has 70 offices around Australia, 420 permanent staff, as well as, 9,000 daily contract workers that are sourced from a database of more than 68,000 workers.

Manpower's advocacy for a national workers' compensation framework

In 2002, Manpower approached the Minister of Employment and Workplace Relations, the Hon. Tony Abbott MP, requesting a declaration of eligibility to seek self-insure under section 108C (now 100C) of the Safety, *Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* (the SRC Act).

Under section 100C of the SRC Act, a corporation that is carrying on business in competition with a Commonwealth authority or with another corporation that was previously a Commonwealth authority, is eligible to be declared eligible to seek a licence under the national workers' compensation scheme.

Despite establishing that Manpower was in competition with a Commonwealth authority, and being favourably assessed against the four core principles that act as preconditions to being granted a declaration, Manpower's application was declined by the Minister (the decision is subject to Ministerial discretion). In essence, the Minister has deferred the granting of our declaration under section 100C of the SRC Act, until the report of the Productivity Commission has been received.

I have attached for your information the correspondence received from the Minister dated 23 July 2002 and the outcomes of the earlier assessment undertaken on Manpower by his Department.

Adoption of a Comcare Model

The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations' (DEWR) recent submission to the Productivity Commission on a National Workers' Compensation and Occupational Health & Safety Framework, provides an excellent overview of prospective workers' compensation and OHS models.

One of the models outlined in the submission, is the adoption of the existing Comcare model, that being the national scheme established under the SRC Act. In adopting this model, private sector companies that fall within the parameters of section 100C of the SRC Act will be eligible to be insured under the Comcare scheme. (The individual state schemes would coexist with the national scheme.)

The Comcare model largely adopts a status quo option with the exception of granting licences to eligible private sector companies, an action that has been deferred by the Minister to date.

Consistent with its recent efforts to be licensed under the SRC Act, Manpower supports the adoption of a Comcare model as outlined in the DEWR submission.

Yours faithfully,

Manpower Services (Australia) Pty Ltd

Varian Nissen
Managing Director
Australia/New Zealand