



STUART GRIMLEY MP

Member for Western Victoria
State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party

MEDIA RELEASE



Grimley Praises Presumptive Compensation Scheme for Workers with Mental Injury

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State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party, Stuart Grimley MP has congratulated the Government on introducing a presumptive compensation scheme for all workers, almost two years after he raised this matter in the Legislative Council through a motion, which passed the House unanimously.

The Scheme (legislated through the *Workplace injury Rehabilitation and Compensation Amendment (Provisional Payments) Bill 2020*) will allow workers to access payments for "reasonable medical and like expenses" related to mental injury as a result of their workplace.

Mr Grimley has been a staunch supporter of presumptive compensation since his election and introduced a motion advocating for a scheme that Victoria's emergency services workers could access.

Over a year later Mr Grimley has followed up his motion with a question to the Minister asking about the success of the program: *"In relation to presumptive compensation for emergency services workers with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and psychological injuries: How many emergency services workers have been granted presumptive compensation for PTSD and psychological injuries?"*

Mr Grimley was pleased to hear that 177 emergency services workers had been granted presumptive compensation for PTSI and other psychological issues.

As a former Victoria Police officer and SOCIT Detective, Mr Grimley knows the mental injury that can be caused from work.

The Bill came about due to mental injury claims taking an average of 27 days to settle as they are harder to prove; in comparison, physical injury claims take an average of 7 days to settle. The Bill also stipulates that where a claim for mental injury is rejected, payments will still be made for 13 weeks.

Quotes Attributable to Stuart Grimley MP:

"As a former police officer I understand firsthand the toll recurring traumatic incidents have on your mental health. Presumptive compensation takes away the added stress of having to prove that it was your job that caused PTSI or other psychological injuries before you receive the help you need.

Although, this is a great start in helping our emergency services workers, more can be done. It is my understanding that some organisations are working towards a stand-alone hospital ward for workers who are suffering from PTSI and psychological injuries. I will continue to work with the Government to see this plan come to fruition.

Once again I would like to thank the Minister and the Government for supporting presumptive compensation and making it law for all workers."

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