

## **Fact Sheet: Proposed Changes to the Return to Work Regulations 2015 - Worker Accommodation and Travel Expenses Related to Permanent Impairment Assessments**

### **Issue**

The current *Return to Work Act 2014* (the Act) and the Return to Work Regulations 2015 (the Regulations) do not allow workers to recover accommodation and travel expenses related to attending a permanent impairment assessment (PIA) after their entitlement to medical expenses has ended under section 33(20) of the Act. This anomaly was identified through a complaint to the Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, following which he has requested consultation on a potential change to the Regulations.

This omission may have been unintentional, given the limited circumstances in which it would apply. However, it can cause hardship to injured workers, particularly those in regional areas who need to travel to attend a PIA.

### **Proposed Solution**

A new regulation is being considered to be added to the Regulations, which would entitle workers to reasonable accommodation and travel costs associated with attending a PIA, regardless of the status of their entitlement to medical expenses.

The new exception would specify that the ceasing of medical entitlements does not apply to reasonable travel and accommodation expenses incurred in relation to attending a PIA.

If supported, it is anticipated that a change to the Regulations will be implemented by the end of this year.

### **Your Input**

We encourage you to consider the proposed solution and provide any feedback or comments you may have. Your input is essential in considering whether:

1. a change should be made to the Regulations
2. the proposed solution is the most appropriate mechanism.

If you have any questions or require further information, do not hesitate to contact Steven Johnson, Manager Government Relations at 0448 787 595 or at [steven.johnson@rtwsa.com](mailto:steven.johnson@rtwsa.com).

Please send your feedback by **Monday 26 June 2023** to [governmentrelations@rtwsa.com](mailto:governmentrelations@rtwsa.com)