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# Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

## WORKPLACE SAFETY Budget 2022-23 Estimates Hearing

Ingrid Stitt MP

Minister for Workplace Safety

Monday 23 May 2022



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# Supporting Workplace Safety

As Victoria's OHS Regulator, WorkSafe is taking action to ensure employers are meeting their Occupational Health and Safety obligations.

Between 1 July 2021 and 30 April 2022, WorkSafe:

- issued over 7,806 improvement notices
- undertook over 35,104 visits and enquiries.



143,000+

CALLS TO WORKSAFE'S **ADVISORY LINE**



9,086,824

VISITS TO WORKSAFE'S **WEBSITE**



30,610

WORKPLACE VISITS CONDUCTED

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# Supporting injured workers

In the period from 1 July 2021 to 30 April 2022:

**83,394** injured workers have been **supported with treatment and/or weekly benefits**

**23,578** **new claims** have been received by WorkSafe

**12,875** injured workers have been **assisted back to work**, with a focus on **tailoring services** to better meet the needs of injured workers

**4,546** Workers have accessed the **new provisional payments for mental injury scheme**





# Delivering for Victorian workers

- Providing eligible workers with access to provisional payments for reasonable treatment and services for work-related mental injuries
- Introducing arbitration powers for the Accident Compensation Conciliation Service to issue binding determinations for WorkCover disputes
- Improving access to compensation for workers with silicosis
- Developing psychological health regulations
- Improving support for families and workers who have been affected by serious workplace incidents and fatalities
- Providing additional rights and protections for labour hire workers under the OHS Act





# Driving reform and raising awareness

- Releasing the **WorkSafe Mental Health Strategy 2021-24 and Year One Action Plan (2021-22)**
- Delivering on the **Targeted 5000 Program**
- Publishing **key guidance** for employers and businesses to support them in creating safe and healthy workplaces
- Running **awareness and education campaigns** aimed at:
  - work-related violence
  - safety in agriculture
  - culturally and linguistically diverse workers
  - young workers.





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# Introducing the Victorian Sick Pay Guarantee

- The 2022-23 Budget invests **\$245.7 million** over three years to implement the **Victorian Sick Pay Guarantee**
- Eligible casual and contract workers in certain occupations can apply for up to **five days a year** of **sick or carer's pay** at the **national minimum wage**
- **More than 150,000 workers** are expected to be eligible in this first phase of the Victorian Sick Pay Guarantee

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Thank you

