

LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS

2018 Workers Compensation Amendments

Link to website

The commencement date for the remaining amendments regarding PIAWE (Preinjury average weekly earnings), weekly compensation, and work capacity disputes will be 1 January 2019.

PIAWE will be calculated on the basis of a worker's weekly gross earnings for work in any employment, averaged over the period of 52 weeks prior to the injury. There will no longer be a need to separately identify special allowances and overtime payments. However, non-monetary benefits (previously non-pecuniary benefits) will have to be identified.

An employer and employee will be able toagree on the PIAWE, subject to any requirements contained in the regulations.

Special provisions will apply to calculating PIAWE for apprentices, young workers, and workers with fewer than 52 weeks continuous employment.

Reviews of work capacity decisions made by insurers will no longer be required to be referred to WIRO and SIRA. Instead reviews/appeals will be referred to the Workers Compensation Commission which will become the 'one-stop shop' for dispute resolution.

All of the changes are expected to be incorporated into the TurksLegal Online Guide in the first week of January 2019.