

QIRC Workers' Compensation Appeals Service

What is the QIRC Workers' Compensation Appeals Service?

The QIRC Workers' Compensation Appeals Service (the **Service**) provides free legal advice and assistance to self-represented appellants in their appeal against a decision of the Workers' Compensation Regulator in the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission (**QIRC**).

The Service is operated by LawRight, an independent community legal centre that coordinates the provision of pro bono legal services for individuals and community groups.

Who is eligible for assistance from the Service?

You will be eligible for assistance from the Service if you:

- are representing yourself in an appeal against a decision made by the Workers' Compensation Regulator in the QIRC;
- cannot afford private legal assistance; and
- cannot obtain speculative ('no win no fee') private legal assistance.

The Service may refuse to provide assistance if:

- your matter does not have a good chance of succeeding;
- you do not comply with the orders of the QIRC or the advice of the Service;
- you already have private legal assistance or can afford private legal assistance;
- you are eligible for legal aid; or
- your request is so urgent, for example in relation to an imminent conference or hearing, that the Service cannot effectively assist in time.

You will not be eligible for assistance if the Service has a conflict of interest or if you are a declared vexatious litigant.

What assistance does the Service provide?

If you are eligible for assistance from the Service, then LawRight will:

- attempt to arrange for a volunteer barrister to represent you at your compulsory conference in the QIRC;
- if appropriate, offer you a 1 hour consultation with a volunteer solicitor. Further appointments can be made as necessary. As the Service is staffed by volunteer lawyers who attend on a rostered basis, you will be unlikely to see the same solicitor in later appointments.

The solicitor or barrister may provide you with:

- legal advice;
- assistance completing key documents, like a statement of facts and contentions;
- advice about other options for the resolution of the dispute;
- advice about QIRC processes;
- one-off legal representation at a compulsory conference; and
- a referral of the matter, if appropriate, for further advice, support or representation.

The solicitor or barrister may assist you to:

- understand the law, rights and perspective of the other party, and the perspective and requirements of the QIRC;
- observe QIRC rules and proper process;

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- be aware of potential orders and the effect of not complying with orders; and
- present your case in the best possible manner.

The solicitor or barrister and the Service will not:

- take on ongoing conduct of the appeal proceeding;
- represent you at any hearings or appearances, apart from a compulsory conference;
- sign any documents on your behalf; or
- pay for any fees, disbursements or costs incurred by you.

How do people apply for assistance from the Service?

If you would like assistance from the Service, then you should complete an application form (available online from LawRight website, www.lawright.org.au) and sign the Service's terms and conditions. The Service's staff can help you to read, understand and complete these documents.

Once the Service receives your application, your matter will be assessed for eligibility.

If you are eligible for assistance, you will be contacted about what assistance can be provided by the Service.

Contact LawRight:

E: selfreps.caseworker@lawright.org.au

T: 07 3239 6559

F: 07 3846 6311

P: LawRight, PO Box 3631, South Brisbane, Qld 4101