



ACT Government

2004-2005 BUDGET

MEDIA RELEASE

MORE MONEY FOR WORKCOVER

A funding boost to ACT WorkCover will enable the creation of a new core business database and will increase available resources for inspectorate programs.

“The Stanhope Labor Government is strongly committed to improving workplace safety and injury prevention for workers in the Territory. Both of these initiatives will deliver on these priorities,” Minister for Industrial Relations, Katy Gallagher said.

ACT Workcover will receive \$0.616 million over 2 years from the 2004-05 Budget to establish the Employer and Workplace Safety Information System (EWSIS).

“This new system will record detailed regulatory information on ACT businesses and employers, including licences and inspector visits in a central data repository.”

The regulatory information includes activities under the following legislation:

- Occupational Health and Safety Act 1989;
- Dangerous Substances Act 2004;
- Workers Compensation Act 1951;
- Gas Safety Act 2000; and
- Construction Occupational Licensing Act 2004.

The new system will allow a range of variables to be electronically recorded including business identity, the number of workplaces/locations, the attitude and compliance history of the business across all the legislation administered by WorkCover, licences issued, the history of incidents, previous enforcement action and the seriousness of any breach.

The use of information technologies will allow Inspectors ready and immediate access to essential information and enable them to focus on their compliance and education work with clients.

The 2004-05 Budget will also provide ACT Workcover with an additional \$1.239 million over four years to increase inspectorate resources.

“The provision of additional funding will allow an increase in programmed inspections and industry compliance campaigns in relation to recent law changes and will improve communication of the legislative requirements to ACT stakeholders.”

“This government takes workplace safety very seriously and will continue to act with the benefit of ACT workers in mind. Our goal is to drive change at the workplace level and work to ensure that safety problems can be identified and remedied before they cause injuries.”

Statement Ends.

