

Acting Premier John Rau

Attorney-General
Minister for Justice Reform
Minister for Industrial Relations

Wednesday, 1 July, 2015

SA Employment tribunal opens

The new South Australian Employment Tribunal (SAET) will sit today for the first time.

Acting Premier John Rau said the independent body will replace the Workers Compensation Tribunal as the dispute resolution Tribunal for workers compensation matters.

“We want to deliver fairer and faster outcomes for injured workers and employers,” he said.

“We have seen the commencement of the new Return to Work scheme, which will provide better recovery and return to work services for South Australians injured at work, and the introduction of Return to Work SA which is delivering great success.

“SAET is the latest milestone in the Government’s return to work reform.

“The Tribunal will be taking applications from today, while workers and employers who had lodged a matter prior to the opening of SAET will have their matter finalised by the Workers Compensation Tribunal.”

Mr Rau said the SAET would have a real emphasis on accessibility, efficiency and flexibility.

“The new Tribunal provides an online application function making the lodgement process easier for worker and employers.

“There will be a greater focus on alternative dispute resolution to help provide speedier outcomes and a team of expert conciliation advisers have been appointed to facilitate mediation and conciliation.

“The Government has also selected independent medical advisers, with expertise across a variety of medical disciplines, who will provide expert opinion on cases where necessary.”

Mr Rau said the Government is considering whether other employment related jurisdictions should be transferred to SAET in the future.

“The goal was to establish a fair and fast one-stop-shop for employment dispute resolution and I am confident that SAET will provide efficient and effective results for all parties involved.”

For more information about the South Australian Employment Tribunal, or for advice or to lodge an application, visit www.saet.sa.gov.au or call 8207 0999.