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SYNOPSIS

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN WORKERS' COMPENSATION SCHEME UPDATE Michelle Reynolds

Key words: Western Australian workers' compensation scheme update

Purpose of your paper: To provide an update on the Western Australian workers' compensation scheme

Synopsis:

Privately underwritten system and approach to regulation

- largest of Australian privately underwritten workers' compensation schemes
- market structure licensed insurers and self insurers
- where we are on the regulatory spectrum and approach

Performance of the scheme and challenges by reference to key trends and issues

- scheme health
- review of dispute resolution framework introduced in December 2011
- results of National injured workers survey
- long duration claims and return to work
- importance of scheme viability framework for business intelligence and monitoring in sustainability of private insurance market and utilising available levers to influence provider behaviour

Legislative agenda

- review of legislative changes introduced in December 2011, i.e. removal of age limits for weekly benefits, common law safety net where employer uninsured
- increased entitlements for jockeys and fire fighters
- reviewing settlement utilisation
- addressing a range of minor issues