

MEDIA RELEASE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2017

Boxing Day Shocker: 4,000 sick and injured workers get their income support terminated today

4,000 sick and injured workers have had their income support terminated by the NSW Government today – despite the scheme having a massive \$2.4 billion accumulated surplus.

Data released by iCare, the NSW agency that oversees the scheme, confirms the workers' compensation system has sufficient financial reserves to continue supporting and improving the level of benefits for those 4,000 injured workers.

Unions NSW Secretary Mark Morey today said injured workers were being scapegoated by the State Government.

"Workers' compensation should be about supporting sick and injured workers, instead it's been turned into a scheme which blames injured workers in order to justify reductions in premiums to employers and cutting benefits by the Berejiklian Government," he said.

"Independent analysis commissioned by Unions NSW and undertaken by the Centre for Future Work has found that the scheme has \$2.4 billion in its accumulated surplus. And when you factor in generous 'risk margins' of 15.6%, the scheme has a total accumulated surplus of over \$4 billion.

"There is simply no financial imperative for the NSW Government to terminate the benefits it currently pays to injured workers - let alone doing it at Christmas.

"The argument the NSW Government cannot 'afford' decent benefits for injured workers is not credible.

"The cuts to workers' compensation are heartless and unnecessary.

"Unions NSW is calling on the NSW Government to immediately reverse the cuts and provide the necessary support so injured workers can either return to work or live with dignity."

[Read the Australia Institute, Centre for Future Work Analysis.](#)

Further comment: Mark Morey 0425 231 812