



## WORKERS COMPENSATION FACT SHEET

*Have you suffered an injury or illness while performing authorised surf lifesaving activities? If so, Workers Compensation may be payable under the Workers Compensation (Bush Fire, Emergency and Rescue Services) Act 1987.*

*Workers Compensation provides you with assistance to help you recover so that you can return to your surf lifesaving duties and/or work as safely and as soon as possible.*

### **Who is entitled to make a claim?**

Registered SLSNSW financial members of the current season are entitled to make a claim for Workers Compensation. A claim may be submitted only if you were undertaking a genuine authorised activity as a surf lifesaver at the time of the injury. Authorised activities are genuine authorised and organised sessions and may include training and competition which are genuinely related to surf lifesaving duties. Claims may also be submitted in relation to approved fundraising activities.

### **What you need to do if you are injured and require Workers Compensation**

In the event you are injured or suffer an illness related to performing an authorised Surf Lifesaving activity, you must immediately notify your supervisor or a club official such as your patrol or club captain.

The injury or incident must be recorded in the logbook and also the Incident Reporting Database (IRD) by a nominated club official (for example your Club Captain or Patrol Captain) as soon as possible following the incident.

For your claim to be assessed by WorkCover NSW you need to complete the **Notification of Injury Form** and send it directly to WorkCover NSW within 48 hours of injury. You can do this via:

- Fax: 9287 4828
- Email: [wca.claims@workcover.nsw.gov.au](mailto:wca.claims@workcover.nsw.gov.au)

The Notification of Injury Form can be found under the members section on the SLSNSW website [www.surflifesaving.com.au](http://www.surflifesaving.com.au).

If your injury will result in you being away from your paid employment for 7 days or greater, you will need to contact WorkCover NSW immediately on 1800 221 960.

If requested by WorkCover NSW, you may need to complete the **Workers Compensation Claim Form** (found on the SLSNSW website). This can be completed with the assistance of your Club Safety Officer if required and must be signed off by a club official. A guardian can also assist with the completion of the form if you are under 18 years of age.

The completed forms are not required to be sent to Surf Life Saving NSW, however please retain copies for your own records.

If you require medical treatment, approval must be obtained from WorkCover NSW prior to the commencement of treatment, unless the treatment is needed in the case of an emergency.

### **WorkCover NSW requirements**

Further documentation such as a WorkCover Medical Certificate, pay slips, tax invoices and receipts may need to be provided to WorkCover NSW. WorkCover may also require you to attend a medical examination by a nominated doctor.

If your claim is accepted by WorkCover NSW you will be assigned a WorkCover case worker. You will be able to discuss your claim, payments and return to surf duties and / or work, directly with this case worker.

Whilst on Workers Compensation you are not permitted to return to surf duties/training/competition unless a WorkCover Medical Certificate is received by your club stating you are physically fit and well, and able to return to pre-injury duties.

It is important to be aware that there are legal consequences if an individual makes a false or misleading claim. This also applies to witnesses and club officials who endorse or provide information to WorkCover relating to a Workers Compensation claim. Information provided must be true and correct as providing false or misleading information is punishable by law and prosecution may occur.

Surf Life Saving NSW will endeavour to support any genuine workers compensation claim arising from current financial members who are injured or impacted financially while performing surf life saving activities.

### How can Workers Compensation help you if you are injured?

#### Medical expenses and other reasonable expenses

Workers Compensation can assist you by covering the costs of most expenses relating to medical and hospital treatments, therapies and counselling. It can also cover rehabilitation provider expenses enabling you to return to your pre injury activities. You may also be entitled to a lump sum payment if your injury results in a permanent impairment.

You may be entitled to workers compensation if you are injured while on a journey to or from your home to an authorised surf lifesaving activity.

#### Loss of wages

You may be entitled to a weekly compensation benefit if you cannot perform your normal work. Self Employed volunteers should refer to WorkCover's policy "Weekly Compensation for Self Employed Volunteers" found under the members section on the SLSNSW website

### What you cannot claim

You cannot claim Workers Compensation if an injury or incident did not arise while carrying out an approved surf lifesaving activity.

A claim for personal injury sustained while completing a journey must not be attributable to the serious and wilful misconduct of the volunteer. Journey claims do not apply if the injury was received during or after any interruption of, or deviation from, any surf lifesaving related journey. The Workers Compensation Act 1987 sets clear guidelines for determining a journey claim.

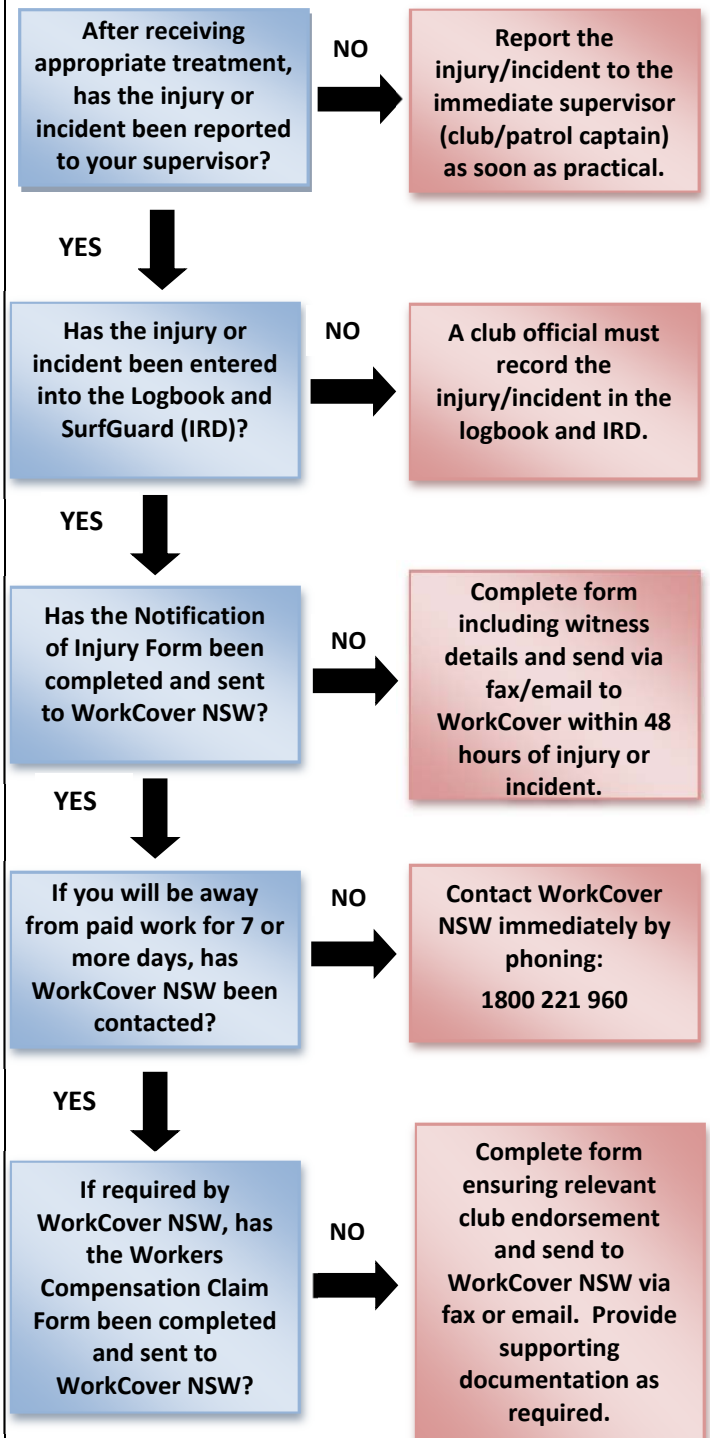
### Further information

Further information and resources relating to the Workers Compensation system for surf lifesaving volunteers in NSW can be found under the members section of the SLSNSW website. Resources include:

- Notification of Injury Form
- Workers Compensation Claim Form
- WorkCover NSW information brochure for Volunteers
- WorkCover NSW policy for Self Employed volunteers

### What is the injury reporting process?

The following flow chart will assist you in ensuring your claim for Workers Compensation will be assessed as quickly as possible by WorkCover NSW.



SURF LIFE SAVING  
NEW SOUTH WALES



For further information or assistance please contact Carolyn Wiseman, SLSNSW HR Manager 9471 8010 or email: [cwiseman@surflifesaving.com.au](mailto:cwiseman@surflifesaving.com.au)