



Michael Daley
Minister for Police
Minister for Finance

MEDIA RELEASE

Parliament Passes Increase for Asbestos Sufferer Benefits

Thursday December 2nd 2010

Minister for Finance Michael Daley today announced that the *Workers Compensation (Dust Diseases) Bill 2010* had been passed by NSW Parliament.

The Bill increases the maximum lump-sum payments to families of workers who die as a result of asbestos exposure at work from \$245,700 to \$311,050 over three years.

This is in addition to weekly payments for dependant family members.

Mr Daley welcomed the passing of the legislation would help to ensure that the families of the victims left behind continue to receive a realistic level of compensation.

“The NSW Government’s priority is to ensure victims of asbestos continue be paid the compensation payments they deserve,” he said.

“Asbestos-related diseases affect more and more people each year with incident rates expected to continue increasing in the coming years.

“It is estimated up to 20,000 Australians will be affected by asbestos-related disease over the next 20 years, a figure which is multiplied when considering the effect on families.

“The State Government’s Dust Diseases Board – unique to NSW – works with victims and their families to offer advice, assistance and compensation for people exposed to asbestos dust while at work.

“The Dust Diseases Board offers compensation, weekly payments and ongoing health care support.

“The NSW Government will continue to support asbestos victims and their families, and has a proud history of doing so.”

The increase will be staged over two years, increasing to \$268,375 from now, to \$291,040 in one year from now, and \$311,050 in two years from now.

In the 2009/10 financial year there were 1070 workers and 2653 dependants receiving compensation totalling \$74.8million from the Dust Diseases Board.

There is no age limit and no income test, and compensation payments are paid for the remainder of the worker’s life as well as paid to dependent spouses and children after death.