



Michael Pettersson MLA

Minister for Business, Arts and Creative Industries
Minister for Children, Youth and Families
Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Minister for Skills, Training and Industrial Relations

Member for Yerrabi

Mr Tom Duncan

Clerk

ACT Legislative Assembly

Tom.Duncan@parliament.act.gov.au

Dear Mr Duncan *Tom,*

I write to respond to petition PET-040-024, tabled in the Legislative Assembly and referred to the then Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety on 3 September 2024.

The petition calls for an investigation into a workers' compensation claim by Mr Ashley Martin and for the government to act on any anomalies that may be found.

Mr Martin's death was tragic. I express my condolences to his family and loved ones for the loss of their family member and friend.

Office of Industrial Relations and Workforce Strategy staff, within the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, are responsible for oversight of the ACT Government workers' compensation self-insurer, including the conduct of Employers Mutual Limited (EML), the contracted claim manager in Mr Martin's case.

Senior staff from the Office of Industrial Relations and Workforce Strategy have conducted a detailed review of the management of Mr Martin's workers' compensation claim.

The claim in question is currently subject to legal action. To avoid prejudicing that legal action and to protect Mr Martin's privacy, I will not comment further on the investigation or circumstances of the claim.

Investigating officers from the directorate will revisit their findings once the legal action is complete, to ensure that any new information that may come to light is fully considered.

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In addition, the operation of the ACT Government workers' compensation insurer is monitored by a statutory advisory committee comprising ACT Government, insurance industry and trade union officials.

In my capacity as the Minister for Skills, Training and Industrial Relations, I will be receiving regular updates on the scheme's performance from the committee. In this respect, I have directed that the committee also advise me on the arrangements in place for identifying and managing risks to the mental health of people when receiving advice about insurer decisions.

I hope that this response to the petition, although limited in the information it can provide, offers some reassurance to the signatories about services for injured and ill public servants.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'MP', is written over the typed name.

Michael Pettersson MLA
Minister for Skills, Training and Industrial Relations

2 December 2024