

# Media Release

**Mr Danny Pearson MP**

Minister for Transport Infrastructure

Minister for the Suburban Rail Loop

Assistant Treasurer

Minister for WorkSafe and the TAC



Tuesday, 23 April 2024

## RETURN TO WORK VICTORIA TO SUPPORT INJURED WORKERS

The Allan Labor Government today announced the establishment of Return to Work Victoria, dedicated to helping injured Victorians recover and get back to work safely.

Return to Work Victoria will focus on promoting effective occupational rehabilitation of injured workers, encourage employers to provide suitable job opportunities for workers who have been injured, and identify innovative injury prevention and return to work strategies.

Return to Work Victoria will deliver the Government's commitment to create and trial new programs and initiatives to improve return to work outcomes, with an initial program budget of \$50 million for its first three years. An annual review will evaluate pilot programs to ensure they are delivering outcomes for workers and value for money.

The pilot programs include a worker support hotline where workers can access mental health support for work-related stress and burnout, and an initiative that will provide small and medium sized businesses with tailored support to build mentally healthy workplaces.

WorkSafe's claims management, recovery and return to work functions will be centralised in Return to Work Victoria, enabling WorkSafe to better target support and interventions.

A Return to Work Advisory Committee will also be established to provide advice to the WorkSafe Victoria Board on return to work initiatives.

Jason Lardelli has been appointed Return to Work Victoria's Executive Director.

Mr Lardelli has been at the forefront of improving return to work outcomes throughout his career and will be key to improving outcomes for Victorian workers through his leadership of Return to Work Victoria.

### Quotes attributable to Minister for WorkSafe and the TAC Danny Pearson

*"Establishing Return to Work Victoria delivers on our promise to provide dedicated support for workers that's focused on injury recovery and helping people return to work safely."*

*"These changes mean Victorian workers will continue to get the help they need, when they need it – while also making sure employers get the right support to keep their workers safe."*

### Quote attributable to WorkSafe Chief Executive Officer Joe Calafiore

*"WorkSafe will continue to focus on preventing injuries from occurring in the first place, but when they do occur Return to Work Victoria will be there to help injured workers recover, rehabilitate and return to work safely."*

### Quote attributable to Return to Work Victoria Executive Director Jason Lardelli

*"Return to Work Victoria is a significant investment in improving outcomes for injured workers and supporting businesses to create safe and healthy workplaces."*

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