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ABC TOOWONG BREAST CANCER CLAIMS ACCEPTED

Comcare today accepted workers' compensation claims from nine women who worked at the ABC studios in Toowong, Brisbane and subsequently suffered breast cancer.

Experts confirmed evidence of a significantly increased incidence of breast cancer at ABC Toowong for the period from 1994 to 2006 compared to women of equivalent age in Queensland. At the same time, experts were unable to find any link between the cancers and the work environment or the technology in use at the Toowong workplace.

Comcare's workers' compensation scheme has a provision to cover exceptional circumstances like these. After examining the ABC's comprehensive report into the cases and commissioning further expert advice, Comcare was able to accept the claims for compensation.

Comcare's Acting CEO, Martin Dolan said "ABC employees who worked at Toowong and lodged compensation claims with Comcare for breast cancer now have access to a range of workers' compensation benefits."

These benefits include:

- Weekly payments for time off work until return to work is achieved or they reach retirement age.
- Occupational rehabilitation undertaken by a professional rehabilitation provider, aimed at maintaining or returning suitable employment.
- Medical treatment costs.
- Household services, attendant care costs or aids and appliances as required.

Mr Dolan said that Comcare, as the occupational health and safety authority for the ABC, would continue to monitor developments. As the manager of the Commonwealth's compensation scheme, it would continue to handle claims for compensation as quickly and effectively as possible.

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