



Jurisdictional Policy Advice 2008/2  
*Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988*  
Indexation of Normal Weekly Earnings under sub-section 8(9B)

## Background

1. Sub-section 8(9B) of the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* provides for an annual increase in the normal weekly earnings (NWE) for ex-employees. That increase is based on the percentage of increase (if any) in a prescribed index over the year ending on 31 December. Sub-section 8(9C) requires the increase to apply to the NWE from the indexation date of 1 July that immediately follows the relevant year ending 31 December.
2. Regulation 5 of the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Regulations 2002* prescribes the Wage Cost Index (total hourly rates of pay – Australia/all industries/all occupations - excluding bonuses) as published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) as the index for the purposes of sub-section 8(9B). This statistic is now also referred to as the Labour Price Index and the Wage Price Index and the rates for the quarter ending 31 December 2007 were published by the ABS on 20 February 2008.
3. The percentage increase in the Labour Price Index from the December quarter of 2006 to the December quarter of 2007 calculated to two decimal places as required by the regulations was 4.20%.

## Policy Advice

4. Determining authorities must increase the NWE for ex-employees covered by this provision by 4.20% with effect from 1 July 2008.
5. Any issues relevant to this policy advice may be discussed with SRC Policy on 1300 366 979 or email [SRC.Policy@comcare.gov.au](mailto:SRC.Policy@comcare.gov.au) .

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