

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ORDINANCE 1971

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

No. 15 of 1971

In the past the level of compensation payable under the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance has been adjusted in accordance with increases in compensation payable under the Commonwealth Employees' Compensation Act. That Act has now been superseded by the Compensation (Commonwealth Employees) Act 1971, and accordingly the proposed Ordinance, which will come into operation on 1 July 1971, will increase the level of compensation payable under it to the level payable under the new Commonwealth legislation.

Pursuant to the existing Ordinance there is a ceiling of \$1000 on the amount for which an employer may be liable in respect of the medical treatment of a workman, except in exceptional circumstances. The maximum sum of \$1000 has become unrealistic and accordingly the proposed Ordinance will provide that employers shall be liable for such reasonable medical expenses of a workman as is appropriate in the circumstances.

The Ordinance will also contain necessary transitional provisions relating to the effectiveness of existing policies of insurance, the payment of additional premiums for additional liability, indemnity and the adjustment of weekly payments under the existing Ordinance.

R. J. H.

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(Minister's Initials)