



CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Workers Compensation in Tasmania

Tasmania's *Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (1988)* provides that employers are required to pay compensation to workers in certain circumstances.

This includes where a worker has contracted a disease and his or her employment contributed to this to a substantial degree. COVID-19 is considered to be a disease for the purposes of the Act.

The situation of each case would be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. The issue, as is the case with any disease for which a worker claims an entitlement under the Act, is that of causation.

Therefore, consideration must be given to the factual circumstances of individual workers contracting COVID-19.

It is important to understand it does not matter whether the worker has travelled intra-state, interstate or abroad or not travelled at all.

Rather, in every case, it must be determined whether the employment caused the worker to be infected.

The key question is, did the worker contract COVID-19 to which his or her employment contributed to a substantial degree?

This means an employer is liable to pay compensation where the worker's employment is the major or most significant factor in them contracting COVID-19.

Further information on workers compensation claims can be found at: <https://worksafe.tas.gov.au/home>

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