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Ms Janene Hillhouse
Executive Director
Workers' Compensation Policy and Services
Office of Industrial Relations
Via email: wcpolicy@oir.qld.gov.au

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Dear Ms Hillhouse

Thank you for providing AMA Queensland with the opportunity to provide feedback on the *Draft guidance for workers' compensation terminal benefits*. AMA Queensland is the state's peak medical advocacy group, representing over 9,600 doctors across Queensland and throughout all levels of the health system.

AMA Queensland supports the extension of the entitlement provisions for workers suffering from a terminal condition from two years to five years as this seems a sensible, fair and compassionate way of supporting workers with terminal conditions.

Workers diagnosed with terminal conditions not only have to deal with the shock, stress and trauma of their diagnosis but also their sense of uncertainty about covering their medical and living expenses (and future palliative care) and their inability to attend to the long term financial needs of their families.

Feedback from AMA Queensland:

- i. it is often very difficult to estimate life expectancy in any circumstance including work related terminal conditions. Although based on experience and knowledge of the patient and the illness, this is ultimately a subjective assessment by the doctor
- ii. we support the scope for an independent review should WorkCover not agree with the doctor's assessment, and we would recommend that the avenue for an independent review be streamlined and easy to obtain particularly around such a stressful time when life is approaching its end
- iii. we recommend WorkCover keep the patient and the involved Doctor regularly informed about the progress of the patient's application to receive a lump sum for their terminal condition.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Perry'.

Prof Chris Perry
President
AMA Queensland

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brett Dale'.

Dr Brett Dale
Chief Executive Officer
AMA Queensland