

## **Legislative statement for the Accident Compensation (Access Reporting and Other Matters) Amendment Bill – Third Reading**

17 May 2023

This legislative statement supports the third reading of the Accident Compensation (Access Reporting and Other Matters) Amendment Bill.

### **Overview**

The purpose of the *Accident Compensation (Access Reporting and Other Matters) Amendment Bill* (the Bill) is to: improve the focus on, and the understanding of, how people with personal injuries are accessing the Accident Compensation Scheme (AC Scheme); increase the transparency of the levels of access to the AC Scheme, including any disparities in access to the AC Scheme by Māori and identified population groups; and give better effect to the purpose of weekly compensation.

The Bill:

- requires ACC to report annually on how Māori and identified population groups are accessing the AC Scheme and on any identified drivers or causes of any disparities in access;
- amends the purpose of the Accident Compensation Act 2001 and inserts a corresponding function to ensure that ACC focuses on monitoring access to the AC Scheme by Māori and identified population groups;
- brings forward eligibility for the minimum rate of weekly compensation from the sixth to the second week of incapacity.

The Bill was introduced on 22 November 2022 and was referred to the Education and Workforce Committee (the Committee) on 25 November 2022. The Committee received written submissions from 15 submitters. On 22 February 2023, the Committee heard oral evidence from nine submitters who supported the Bill with recommended changes.

The Committee reported back with recommended changes to the Bill on 13 April 2023.

### **Changes to the Bill proposed by the Committee**

The Committee recommended amending the Bill by replacing references to “Māori and other population groups” with “Māori and identified population groups”. The Bill, as reported back by the Committee, contains amendments to provisions that refer to population groups to reflect this change.

This change is intended to better acknowledge Māori as tangata whenua and partners under te Tiriti o Waitangi, and not as another population group.