



Death Benefit Increase for Dependants

The Deputy Prime Minister and the Prime Minister have approved amendments to increase death benefits payable to dependants of seafarers covered by the *Seafarers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1992* (Seafarers Act) as follows:

- the lump-sum payment will increase from \$225,594.33 to \$412,000; and
- the weekly benefit payable to dependent children will increase from \$75.17 to \$113.30.

The amendments will also provide for annual increases to these benefits according to the Wage Price Index (WPI) or as prescribed.

The proposed amendments align with those being considered by Parliament for employees covered by the Comcare scheme under the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988*.

The amendments were agreed to by the Senate on 14 May and now need to be agreed to by the House of Representatives. The changes are due to take effect on the day after the Act receives Royal Assent. To keep Seacare Scheme stakeholders informed, the Seacare Management Section will post updates on progress on the Seacare website.

If you have any questions about the proposed amendments, please contact Mr Gerard Newman on 02 6275 0061 or at gerard.newman@comcare.gov.au

Secretariat and Seacare Management Section

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