



# SEACARE AUTHORITY QUARTERLY REPORT

## Report 01/2001

### Outcomes of Seacare Authority Meeting 34 of 6 March 2001

#### Rehabilitation/return-to-work Roundtable - Fremantle

The Authority conducted a ½ day roundtable on rehabilitation and return to work in the Australian shipping industry in Fremantle on 6 March 2001, to follow up the symposium held in Melbourne in November 2000. Over 25 people attended including employers (principally offshore), unions, lawyers, insurance industry representatives and rehabilitation providers. A report on the roundtable will shortly be available on the Seacare website [www.seacare.gov.au](http://www.seacare.gov.au). Melbourne symposium outcomes are also on the website.

Following the symposium and roundtable, the Seacare Authority has agreed to:

- ?? widely circulate the outcomes of the Melbourne symposium and Fremantle roundtable as a means of better informing the industry on this important aspect of the Seacare scheme – see the website;
- ?? commence development of an information manual or guidance material on good practice rehabilitation strategies, aimed particularly at smaller to medium size companies with limited resources, and less experience in addressing rehabilitation cases;
- ?? issue a new brochure on rehabilitation and return to work – now released – available from the website or in hard copy on request;
- ?? identify ways to involve medical providers and the insurance industry in improvement strategies being promoted by the Authority – the Seacare Authority will be meeting with Seacare scheme insurers in the near future to discuss strategies;
- ?? include leading edge material on rehabilitation and return to work on the Authority's website, to improve the accessibility of such information – this initiative has commenced with a rehabilitation section added to the website; and
- ?? continue participation in the National Return to Work Monitor, a survey of injured employees' return to work experience.

#### Seacare Authority Strategic Plan 2000-01 to 2002-03

The Authority endorsed a 3-year strategic plan identifying the Authority's goals for the next 3 years. Annual work plans, to be agreed at the commencement of each financial year, will derive from the overarching strategic plan. The strategic plan will be shortly available on the Seacare website.

#### Electronic form lodgement

The Authority noted that the first form with full electronic lodgement, the Insurance Details Report, was launched early in 2001, and that work has commenced on implementation of an electronic form lodgement system for all Seacare scheme forms, consistent with requirements under the *Electronic Transactions Act 1999* and the Commonwealth Government's online action strategy.

Other forms to be converted to electronic format include the *Exemption form* and *Report on Employee and Ship Details* (both already available in email form). The *Claim for Compensation/Rehabilitation* form is likely to be exempt from the requirements of the Electronic Transactions Act for the medium term.

#### Investigation of mismatch between claims data and incident reports

The Authority noted the outcome of a case study analysis of the mismatch between claims data provided to AMICA and incident data reported to AMSA. While the analysis revealed a wide range of reasons for the data mismatch, the Authority indicated a concern at the apparent level of under-reporting of incidents to

AMSA and failure to lodge workers' compensation claim forms to AMICA. The Authority decided to seek the support of employers and of employer associations to ensure compliance with statutory reporting obligations.

### **Occupational health and safety performance indicators for the shipping industry**

A Safety Performance Indicators (Shipping Industry) Committee has been reconstituted with the task of developing a package of positive safety performance indicators for use by shipping companies. The Committee is convened by David Parmeter, Director Industrial Relations, Australian Shipowners Association. Other members include Derrice Dillon Mermaid Marine, Paddy Crumlin MUA and Graham Mapplebeck AMSA, with advisory support from the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission and Seacare Authority Secretariat.

The Committee workshopped a draft package of indicators in February 2001. Once refined by the Committee a number of companies will be invited to participate in a validation exercise to test the applicability and measurability of the indicators. Following refinement arising from the validation test, the indicators will then be trialled in a number of companies for up to a year before consideration of their implementation across the industry. The *positive performance indicators* are being developed for application at the enterprise level. They complement Seacare scheme *outcome indicators* being prepared for inclusion in the 3<sup>rd</sup> national Comparative Performance Monitoring report currently being compiled by the Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business for consideration of Workplace Relations Ministers Council, and reported in the Seacare Annual Report. The Authority noted developments and expects to sign off on a trial implementation of positive performance indicators in May 2001.

### **Website**

The Authority noted that the new Seacare website design was launched in February 2001.

### **Maritime Legislation Amendment Bill 2000 (the 500 GT Bill)**

The Authority was informed that the Bill was still scheduled for debate in the autumn session of Parliament, most likely in late March/early April and that the most likely commencement date, if the Bill is passed, is 1 July 2001. The Authority, the Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business (DEWRSB) and the Department of Transport and Regional Services have now agreed on guidelines that AMSA will use in assessing applications for a declaration under the proposed new opt-out provisions (proposed new Section 8AC). The guidelines provide for a role for the Authority in advising AMSA on an application for a declaration to opt-out of coverage from Commonwealth legislation. The Bill clarifies that the Seafarers and OHS(MI) Acts will no longer apply to Australian fishing vessels and fishing fleet support vessels (unless proceeding on an overseas voyage).

### **Final Report of the Review of the *Navigation Act 1912***

The Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business, on behalf of the Authority has written to the Department of Transport and Regional Services identifying those proposals in the final report which will need to be negotiated with the Seacare Authority, because of their impact on the operation of the Seafarers Act and OHS(Maritime Industry) Act.

### **Seacare scheme insurance premiums**

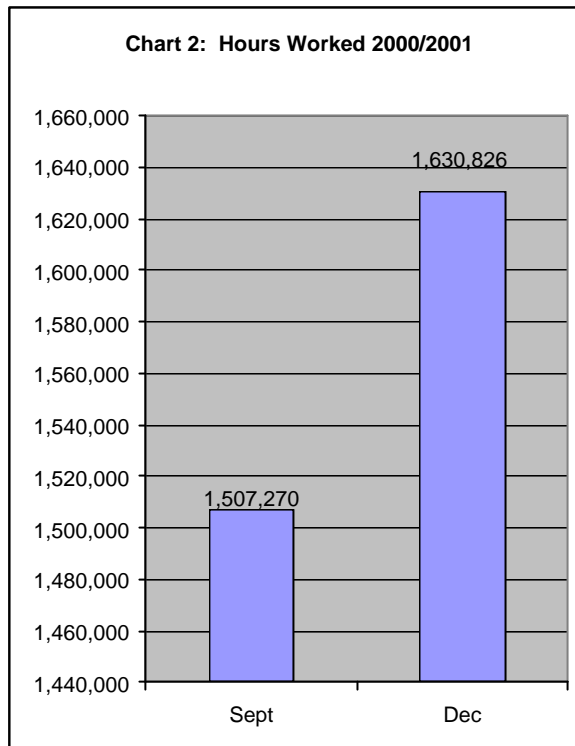
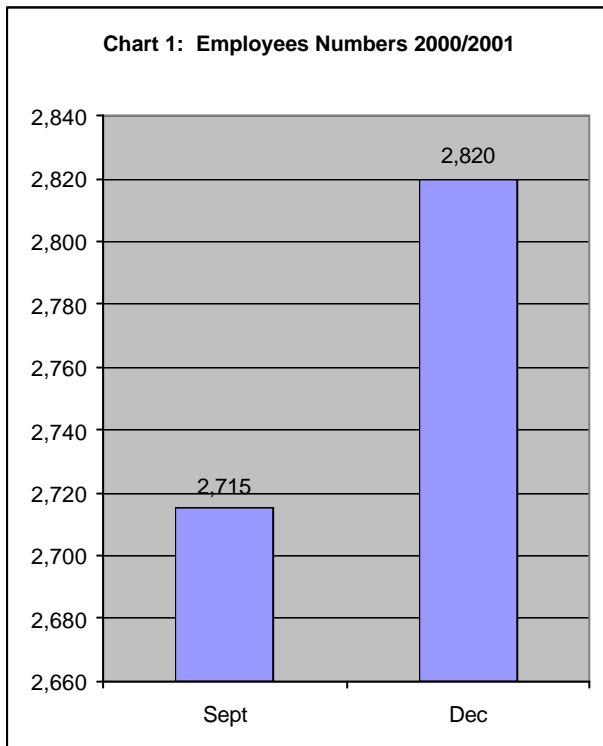
The Authority received an initial report on Seacare scheme insurance premiums, based in part on an analysis of premiums undertaken for the Authority by Mr Martin Fry of Taylor Fry consulting actuaries. As the Authority has a concern about premium levels, it has recognised the need for more detailed information on actual premium levels, on comparisons with other schemes and other industries and on the disbursement of premiums ie what are they paying for. A further report on premiums will be presented to the next Seacare Authority meeting in May 2001.

### **Next Seacare Authority meeting**

The next meeting of the Authority will take place in Canberra on Tuesday 15 May 2001. If you wish that a matter be placed on the agenda for discussion, please forward your item to the Seacare Authority Secretariat by e-mail at [seacare@dewrsb.gov.au](mailto:seacare@dewrsb.gov.au) or telephone on (02) 6121 7120 by 1 May 2001.

### Seacare Authority statistics and performance reports

In 2000 the Authority adopted a new set of standing reports for consideration at each meeting, aimed at keeping a closer watch on scheme performance, and to help identify policy directions. The following charts and tables have been reproduced from those presented to meeting 34 of 6 March 2001.



**Table 1: Seafarers Act - Compensation claims data – 2000/2001**

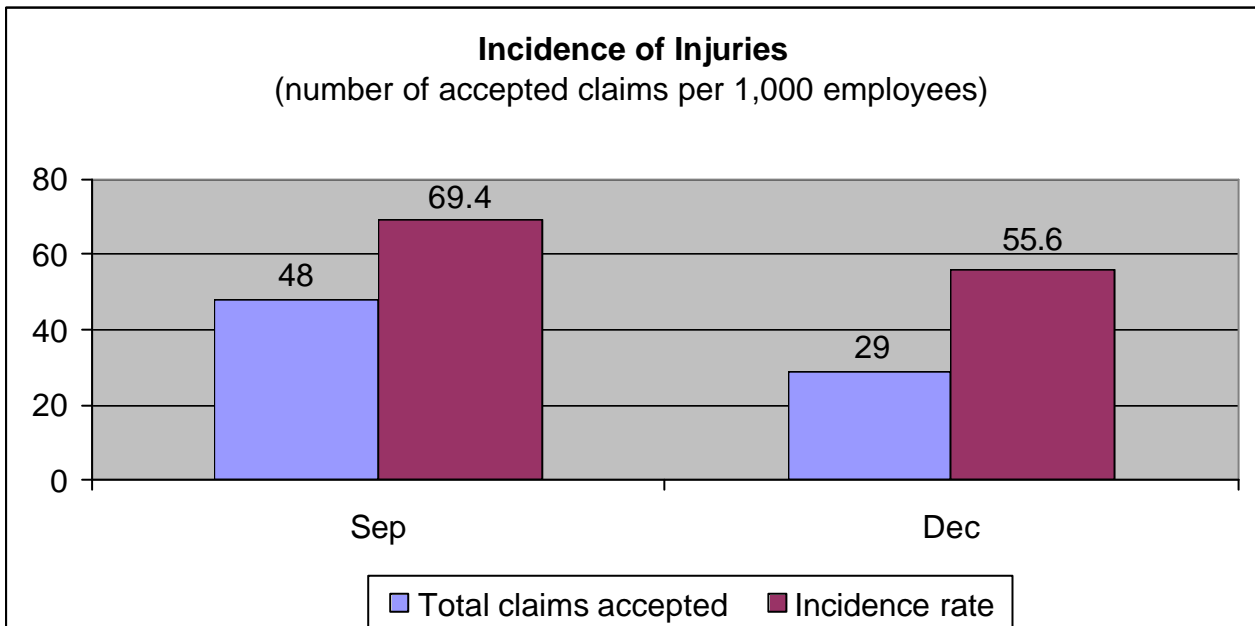
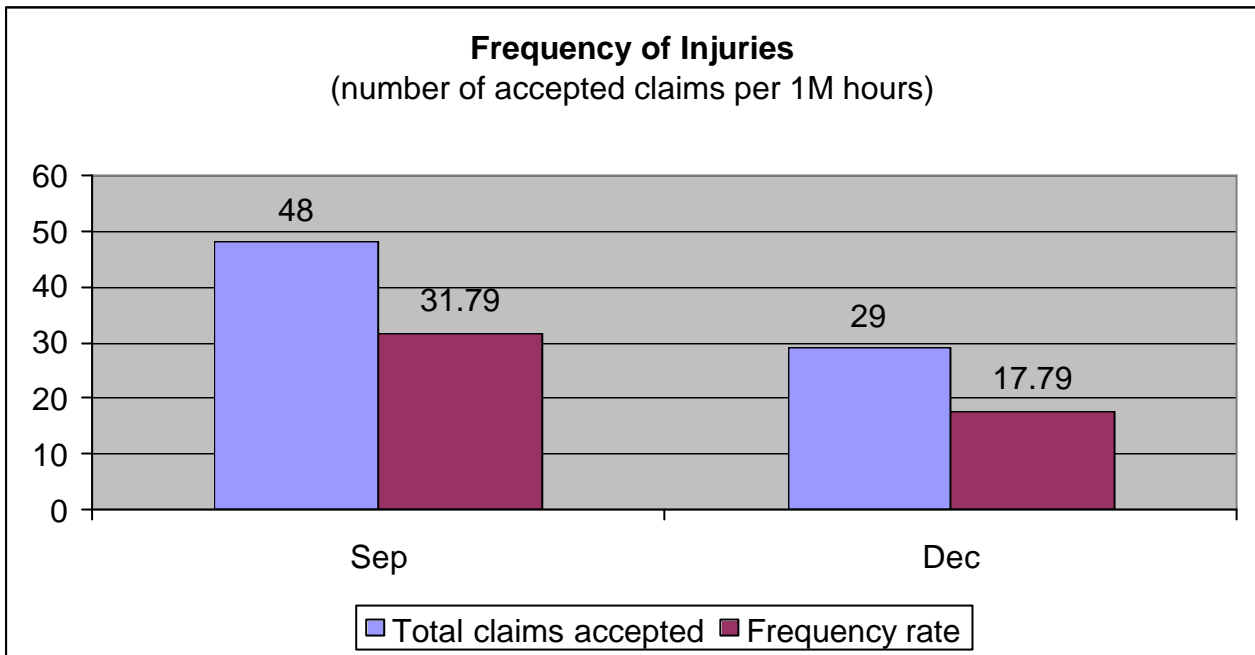
Claims data at end of each quarter	Sep	Dec	Mar	Jun	YTD	Annual estimate*	Previous year*
Total claims reported to AMICA	56	43			99	198	177
Claims accepted	48	29			77	154	151
Claims rejected	4	3			7	14	18
Claims pending	4	11			15	30	8
Claims accepted - on duty	43	29			72	144	134
Claims accepted - off duty	4	1			5	10	7
Claims accepted - other (travel, study)	1	0			1	2	10
Active or continuing claims	81	47			128	256	53
Claims of 5 or more days duration	NA	64	NA		64	128	131

Source: AMICA, \*Seacare Authority

**Table 2: OHS incident report**

	Sep	Dec	YTD	Annual estimate*	Previous year*
Incidents reported to AMSA	15	22	37	74	80
Dangerous occurrences notified	1	0	1	2	8
Investigations of incidents	4	1	5	10	23
Prohibition notices issued	NA	0	0		3
Improvement notices issued	NA	0	0		7
Prosecutions commenced	NA	0	0		0
Prosecutions concluded	NA	0	0		1

Source: AMSA, \*Seacare Authority



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#### HOW TO CONTACT THE SEACARE AUTHORITY

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