1. On 20 May 2013, the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, the Hon Bill Shorten MP, released the report on the Review of the Seacare scheme by Mr Robin Stewart-Crompton.

2. In accordance with the Seacare scheme review Terms of Reference, the report sets out 67 recommendations to modernise and improve the operation of the scheme in a number of key areas including:
   > jurisdictional coverage
   > legislative consistency between the Seafarers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1992 and the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988
   > legislative consistency between the Occupational Health and Safety (Maritime Industry) Act 1993 and the model Work Health and Safety (WHS) laws
   > achieving lower premiums
   > governance.

3. On behalf of the Seafarers Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Authority (Seacare Authority), I welcome the report and its recommendations to address scheme complexity and to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Seacare scheme.

4. In particular, I welcome the recommendations to address the complexities of the current scheme coverage provisions. In this regard, I support the prescribed aim of achieving:
   > easier, simpler and more consistent identification of which laws apply and in what circumstances
   > better regulatory outcomes under the laws as a result.

5. It is also pleasing to note the recommendations included to adopt the model WHS laws in the Seacare scheme with appropriate adjustments for the maritime industry context. The model laws provide a national approach to equitable and effective safety standards and protections which, if adopted in the Seacare scheme, will address injury prevention and safety outcomes in the industry. It will also ensure consistency and clarity for organisations operating in multiple jurisdictions.
6. The report includes a number of recommendations to improve rehabilitation and return to work processes in the jurisdiction. The recommended focus on early intervention from injury will benefit both seafarers and employers and, in conjunction with improved injury prevention measures, has the potential to reduce the economic and non-economic costs of work related injury and illness in the maritime industry.

7. On behalf of the Seacare Authority I wish to thank Mr Stewart-Crompton for his report and I encourage all industry stakeholders to contribute to the upcoming consultations on the recommendations of the review.


9. Any enquiries relating to this notice may be directed to the Seacare Management Section on (02) 6275 0070 or by email seacare@comcare.gov.au.

David Sterrett
Chairperson
Seacare Authority

21 May 2013