NOTICE TO MARITIME INDUSTRY ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES

NOTICE NO 08/2012

REVIEW OF THE SEACARE SCHEME ANNOUNCED

1. On Tuesday 16 October, the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, the Hon Bill Shorten MP, announced a review of the Seacare scheme.

2. The review will cover four key areas:
   > jurisdictional coverage of the Seacare scheme
   > the scope and necessity for amending and updating any legislative inconsistencies in the scheme
   > the scope for amending the Seafarers Act to help reduce workers’ compensation premium costs
   > governance arrangements for the Seacare scheme.

   The review will report to Government by 22 February 2013.

3. The Chairperson of the Seafarers Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Authority (Seacare Authority), Mr David Sterrett has welcomed the Government’s review of the Seacare scheme and the opportunity it affords to modernise and improve the operation of the scheme.

4. “As the regulator of the Seacare scheme, the Seacare Authority aims to take a leading role in minimising the human and financial costs of workplace injury in the Australian maritime industry”, Mr Sterrett said. “The Authority therefore welcomes the Australian Government’s review of the Seacare scheme and its intended clarification and update of the jurisdiction and its operation.

5. “In light of the recent introduction and development of the most significant reforms in the Australian maritime’s history, it is important to maintain a focus on workplace health and safety to ensure that safety in the industry is not compromised during a period of growth and reform.

6. “The focus of the Australian Government’s review of the Seacare scheme will ensure that workplace health and safety, rehabilitation and workers’ compensation arrangements in the Seacare scheme are best practice, modern and appropriate for the current maritime environment. A review of the scope to reduce workers’ compensation premium costs will also assist to ensure that the Seacare scheme does not impose an undue burden on employers.”

7. The review will be chaired by Mr Robin Stewart-Crompton, who was CEO of the former National Occupational Health and Safety Commission and chair of the national review into model occupational health and safety laws which led to the introduction of the Work Health and Safety Act 2011.
8. The Seacare Authority has invited Mr Stewart-Crompton to join a panel discussion on the Seacare scheme at the Seacare conference being held 24–25 October.

9. More details regarding the review will be on the Seacare website when they become available.

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

Seacare Management Section
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22 October 2012