



# ACC Futures Coalition

## Newsletter

No. 1 February 2011

Welcome to the first newsletter of the ACC Futures Coalition for 2011 and to the campaign to keep ACC as a publicly-owned single provider committed to the provision of injury prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and 'no fault' compensation social insurance system for all New Zealanders.

Thank you for signing up to support the campaign. We are group of affiliated organisations and individuals who want an ACC scheme that operates on the basis of its founding principles of:

- Community responsibility – we must look after all those who, through injury, are unable to contribute to the welfare of the community
- Comprehensive entitlement – all injured persons must be covered by the community funded scheme on the same uniform basis
- Complete rehabilitation – promotion of rehabilitation to the fullest possible extent
- Real compensation – compensation must be meaningful
- Administrative efficiency – speed, consistency, economy and lack of dispute should characterise the collection of funds and their distribution as benefits

Accordingly the Coalition is opposed the current government's direction on ACC which over-emphasises the insurance aspects of the scheme and undermines the social aspects of the scheme. We are dismayed at the run down of the scheme over the last two years and the proposals to privatise some of the ACC accounts.

You can help us right away by

1. Signing up to our [Facebook page](#) if you haven't yet
2. Signing up to our [web site](#) support page if you haven't yet
3. Spreading the word among your friends and networks to do the same

We need as many people as possible to sign up.

### **Stocktake Released – Privatisation announced**

Just before Christmas the government finally released the report of the group undertaking the stocktake of the ACC accounts. It is a huge document and we are currently analysing it to try and understand the full implications. However main points include:

- The government intends to privatise the work account following the next election by opening it up to competition with private insurers. Work is already underway to make this happen

- They intend to extend the Accredited Employer scheme which enables larger employers to self-insure and manage their own workplace accidents rather than signing up to ACC
- Related to this we will see greater use of private third party administrators (TPAs) in the management of individual cases. TPAs have a bad track record
- Removing the Disputes Resolution Services Ltd (DSRL) from the ownership of ACC to improve independence. This may be a positive move

We will provide more information once our analysis is completed but in the mean time we are working to oppose the moves to privatisation and the greater use of TPAs.

### **Election year seminars**

The Coalition is intending to organize seminars in Auckland (in conjunction with the School of Business at Auckland University), Wellington and Dunedin. We are inviting representatives of the political parties to outline their policies and they will be supported by a range of expert speakers.

These have not been finalized. Dates, venues and speakers will be announced once known. Keep an eye out for these.

### **Other campaign initiatives**

It is election year and the ACC Futures Coalition will be working on other campaign activities to raise the profile of ACC as an election issue. We are interested in your ideas. Please send your thoughts to [info@accfutures.org.nz](mailto:info@accfutures.org.nz)

### **Petition on hearing loss**

ACC Futures Coalition affiliate the National Foundation for the Deaf (NFD) intends presenting a petition to the House of Representatives protesting against the government's decision to discriminate against people with industrial noise induced hearing loss by disallowing cover under ACC for rehabilitation, until they prove they have at least 6% of sound injury hearing loss. This is a group of New Zealanders who do not have 'comprehensive entitlement'.

You can read about this and download the petition forms by going to the NFD [website](#)

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