**Workers’ compensation stigma**

**Key messages**

* Workers’ compensation provides an important safety net to workers who become injured or ill because of work. It provides financial support and other assistance so workers can focus on getting better and back to work safely.
* Workers’ compensation stigma occurs when there is discrimination against or stereotyping of a worker seeking workers’ compensation.
* It can prevent injured or ill workers from making a workers’ compensation claim or impact their recovery.
* Supporting injured or ill workers to get back to work safely benefits everyone – the injured or ill worker, their team, and the broader organisation.
* Everyone in the workplace can play a role in creating a supportive and inclusive environment for people who are injured or ill because of work.
* By understanding what workers’ compensation stigma is, where it can occur, and how to identify it, we can take action to reduce it.
* To find out more and to download resources, go to <http://swa.gov.au/workerscompensationstigma>

**Facts about workers’ compensation stigma**

* 1 in 3 injured workers thought they would be treated differently by people at work if they knew about their injury or illness.[[1]](#footnote-1)
* 1 in 5 workers were worried about stigma associated with being on workers’ compensation.[[2]](#footnote-2)

**About the campaign**

* Safe Work Australia has launched a new awareness campaign to increase understanding of workers’ compensation stigma and what can be done to reduce it.
* The campaign includes new practical resources to help employers, supervisors and workers to take action to reduce workers’ compensation stigma.
* The fact sheets provide practical information about workers’ compensation and what employers, supervisors and workers can do to create a supportive work environment and reduce workers’ compensation stigma. Other resources include case studies, posters and infographics.

1. From a survey of 4588 workers who have claimed workers’ compensation in: [2021 National Return to Work Survey – Summary report | Safe Work Australia](https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/doc/2021-national-return-work-survey-summary-report) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. From a survey of 1084 workers in: [Research into Australian workers’ understanding of workers’ compensation systems and their communication preferences.](https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/doc/australian-workers-understanding-workers-compensation-systems) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)