



## Media release

16 December 2019

### **New Workers Compensation Independent Review Officer appointed**

Simon Cohen has been appointed as the next Workers Compensation Independent Review Officer (WIRO).

WIRO plays a critical role in the workers compensation landscape as an independent statutory office which helps find solutions for injured workers who have issues or complaints about insurers.

Simon Cohen has more than 20 years' experience in complaints handling and dispute resolution including esteemed work as the national Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman from 2010 to 2015, and Director of Consumer Affairs Victoria from 2015 to 2019.

Mr Cohen is currently working in the Victorian public service as Deputy Secretary Regulation, Department of Justice and Community Safety.

"WIRO performs a critical role in finding solutions for injured workers. I am honoured to have the opportunity to lead the WIRO team in providing accessible, fair and effective dispute resolution," Mr Cohen said.

Secretary of the Department of Customer Service Emma Hogan said she looked forward to working with Simon Cohen who brings a rich combination of legal and public sector experience to the role.

"I also take the opportunity to pay tribute to the inaugural WIRO officer Kim Garling for his passion to help injured workers resolve their disputes quickly," Ms Hogan said.

Mr Cohen commences work at WIRO in February 2020.

In the interim, Philip Jedlin will act in the role of WIRO.

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