

# media release

## *Workplace safety brings rewards for all*

**7 December 2006:** Nearly 44,000 workers compensation claims were lodged in Western Australia in the 2004/2005 financial year and 45.4% of these resulted in time lost from work<sup>1</sup>. Workplace safety remains a serious issue for employers across all industries in Australia.

What is frightening is that many workplace accidents are preventable. With the correct process in place, employers can significantly reduce their costs. By having a comprehensive workplace assessment undertaken by a qualified risk manager, organisations can reduce the workplace injury toll.

Vero Insurance Limited (Vero) understands how important risk management is and has a dedicated team of experts who assist businesses to recognise risk and improve workplace safety.

In June 2004, a broker approached Vero Workers Compensation to assist a client in Western Australia who was experiencing over \$1 million in workers compensation claims every year.

The Vero Workers Compensation risk management team conducted a certified Worksafe Plan Assessment and prepared a 12 month improvement plan for the business. Senior management within the organisation actively implemented the changes. They also participated in Occupational Health and Safety training.

The results were quick. In only 12 months, there was evidence of claim numbers reducing by 50% and overall claims cost by 57%. Now in its third year of the Vero Workers Compensation Risk Improvement program, the

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<sup>1</sup> Workcover Western Australia Statistical Report 2001/2002 – 2004/2005



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company has maintained top quartile performance for their industry sector over that period.

General Manager of Vero Workers Compensation, Rodney Bond said the plan was implemented to help the organisation look after their employees and prevent injuries in the workplace. Another advantage was the reduction in claims and related costs.

"The turn around of this business has been incredible. In fact, they were recently recognised by WorkSafe Western Australia with a Gold WorkSafe Plan Award for achieving a rating of over 75% against the WorkSafe Plan Assessment Guidelines," Mr Bond said.

The company's CEO said he is 'seeing and recognising the value that Vero has brought to the partnership. The frequency and severity of claims is decreasing and Vero's service has exceeded our expectations'.

**- ENDS -**

## **Editor's note**

Vero Insurance Limited ("Vero") is a subsidiary of the Promina Group Limited, which is one of the top 50 companies listed on the Australian Stock Exchange. Vero, formerly Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance Australia Limited, has for many years been offering highly specialised solutions to its large range of customers.

Vero is one of Australia's largest intermediated general insurance companies and has 19 branches across Australia, providing a suite of quality specialised risk management products and services through brokers, corporate partners and risk managers.

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