

Host suitable duties programs

Information for health providers

WorkCover coordinates rehabilitation for workers who have a workers' compensation claim.

The majority of workers are able to return to work with their employer. However, some are unable to return to their employer or their job. WorkCover coordinates suitable duties programs for these workers at another workplace with a host employer.

What is a 'host employer'?

A host employer is an employer who agrees to host a worker at their workplace for the duration of the program. WorkCover pays the worker's compensation entitlements when they participate in a host employment placement. These programs normally run for three to six weeks.

A host employer is not obliged to employ a person after their program has ended.

Return to work

Getting workers back to work safely and quickly is one of the goals of WorkCover case management. Achieving this goal can be made easier through host employment placement. Host placement often leads to injured workers returning to suitable, permanent positions, and no longer needing workers' compensation benefits. When a host employer is secured, the case manager is then responsible for setting up the suitable duties program with the host.

When does WorkCover use an external service provider?

WorkCover may arrange for an external service provider to find an appropriate host employer. This will be someone who performs job seeking or placement services, as outlined in the Q-COMP Occupational Rehabilitation Table of Costs.

Once a Queensland-based host employer is identified either by the case manager or the external service provider, WorkCover may arrange for an allied health provider to visit the worksite with the worker to develop the suitable duties program. This program should match the

person's abilities with appropriate job tasks and hours of work. The host suitable duties program will be approved in writing by the worker's treating medical practitioner.

The host placement agreement

WorkCover has developed a host placement agreement to formalise the arrangement between the Queensland-based host employer and WorkCover. The agreement outlines each party's legal responsibilities and any special limitations on the host placement.

When can the host suitable duties program start?

The host suitable duties program cannot start without the agreement being signed by the host employer. This can only happen after relevant parties have agreed to the suitable duties program and WorkCover has obtained approval from the treating medical practitioner.

Is the service provider involved with the agreement?

The service provider does not have to deliver, collect or explain the agreement. WorkCover will send the agreement to the host employer before the allied health provider visits the worksite (if a visit is needed). If you are asked about the agreement, please advise the host employer to contact WorkCover's case manager.

Can I contact WorkCover's claims staff?

If you do not have the direct number for the WorkCover staff member managing the claim, please call WorkCover on 1300 362 128, give the name of your client, date of birth or the claim number, if you have it.

Our contact centre staff will then transfer you to the appropriate person to talk to about your client or to arrange a case conference.

For more information

WorkCover web site www.workcoverqld.com.au, or call 1300 362 128.