



**Hon Ann Bressington MLC**

Parliament House  
North Terrace  
ADELAIDE SA 5000  
Phone: 08 8237 9541  
Fax: 08 8237 9534

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> October 2011

### **WORK INJURED RESOURCE CONNECTION RECOGNISED BY COMMUNITY NOW IT'S THE GOVERNMENTS TURN**

Independent MLC Ann Bressington has today written to the Treasurer and Minister for Worker's Rehabilitation calling upon him to first recognise and then adequately fund the Work Injured Resource Connection.

Founded in 1998 by Ms Rosemary McKenzie-Fergusson, Work Injured Resource Connection is a not-for-profit injured worker support service. Since its inception, Ms McKenzie-Fergusson has worked tirelessly to support injured workers through the increasingly complex and hostile WorkCover system. Due to the hardship faced by many injured workers, Ms McKenzie-Fergusson also provides food hampers, known as Bags of Love, to injured workers and their families.

This dedication was last night recognised at the South Australian of the Year Awards, with Ms McKenzie-Fergusson winning the Community Leader Award.

*"I congratulate Rosemary on winning the Community Leader Award. Such recognition is long overdue,"* Ann Bressington said.

*"Injured workers are often completely lost in dealing with WorkCover and its claim agent and are desperate for independent advice and support. Recognising this need, Rosemary has worked tirelessly to assist as many as she can to regain their lives."*

Despite numerous calls to have Work Injured Resource Connection funded so that it is able to offer its services to all injured workers in need, the Government and in particular the WorkCover Board have refused to acknowledge the vital role Ms McKenzie-Fergusson plays.

*"Now that the community has recognised Rosemary's role, it is surely time the Government and WorkCover did the same,"* Ann Bressington said.

In a letter sent today to the Treasurer and Minister for Workers' Rehabilitation, the Hon Jack Snelling MP, Ann Bressington has again called upon the Treasurer and the WorkCover Board to fund Work Injured Resource Connection.

*"I am calling on the Treasurer to step-up and fund Rosemary's organisation so the vital community service it provides can be expanded to all those in need."*

**For more information please contact Ann Bressington on (08) 8237 9596 or  
Ms Rosemary McKenzie-Fergusson on 0414 345 322**



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PARLIAMENT HOUSE

ADELAIDE, S.A. 5000

**ANN BRESSINGTON M.L.C.**

INDEPENDENT MEMBER  
OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

**PH: (08) 8237 9533**

**FAX: (08) 8237 9534**

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Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> November 2011

Hon Jack Snelling M.P.  
Treasurer,  
GPO Box 2264,  
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Treasurer,

**RE: Work Injured Resource Connection**

I write to you concerning the work of Ms Rosemary McKenzie-Ferguson, founder of the Work Injured Resource Connection ('WIRC'), a not-for-profit injured worker support service.

As you may be aware, Ms McKenzie-Ferguson has been recognised as a South Australian of the Year, last night winning the Community Award. This is in recognition of Ms McKenzie-Ferguson's tireless advocacy and support to injured workers to assist them to navigate the increasingly complex and hostile WorkCover system. This is despite WIRC operating on a shoestring budget since its inception and reliant on small and infrequent donations by members of the community.

I write this letter to again call upon this Government and the WorkCover board to recognise and adequately fund WIRC to perform its crucial role to injured workers who otherwise have very few independent support services available to them. Through her own experiences of being on WorkCover and those of others for whom she has advocated, Ms McKenzie-Ferguson has become an unappreciated yet important part of the system. Now that the community has recognised her role, it is surely time the Government and WorkCover did the same.

This is by no means the first occasion that members of the community or their representatives have called for the work of Ms McKenzie-Ferguson to be funded. I enclose for your reference examples of Legislative Council Hansard in which Members have called upon former Ministers to fund WIRC so that the assistance it currently provides can be expanded.

I hope that unlike your predecessors you will act on these calls and ensure WIRC's valuable services are available to all injured workers both now and into the future.

I look forward to your reply.  
Yours sincerely,

Hon Ann Bressington MLC