



**Hon John Mickel MP**

Member for Logan

Our Ref: E/08/01016 & A/6988

- 8 JAN 2009

Mr Neil Laurie  
Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 12 November 2008 attaching petition number 1129-08 from Mr Gordon Jones and others regarding workers' compensation coverage for persons performing jury service.

The Government values the essential service performed by juries. Jury service is a civic duty, rather than an employment arrangement, and it is important that this distinction remains.

Jurors are not paid a wage. The allowances paid under the *Jury Act 1995* are not intended to fully compensate a person for loss of earnings, but are payment for the civil duty performed. Persons who are employed continue to be employed by their ordinary employer, and continue to draw a wage, while they perform jury service.

Jurors have access to special payments in certain cases under the *Jury Act 1995*. The Governor-in-Council may authorise a special payment compensating a person who suffers injury, damage or loss arising out of the person's jury service. An application for special compensation must be made in writing to the Attorney-General and include full details of the injury, damage or loss. This must be accompanied by all documentary evidence in the applicant's possession of the injury, damage or loss. On receiving an application the Attorney-General may make inquiries to verify the details of the injury, damage or loss claimed by the applicant.

Jurors must be viewed as independent, and to imply an employment relationship would run counter to this independence. In addition, there would be significant tax and liability issues if jurors were considered to be workers. The deeming of jurors as employees, for example, may also invoke or lead to application in other contexts, such as superannuation entitlements.

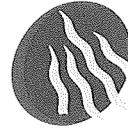
I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

**JOHN MICKEL MP**

**Minister for Transport, Trade,  
Employment and Industrial Relations**

**CC: The Honourable Kerry Shine MP  
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and  
Minister Assisting the Premier in Western Queensland**



**Queensland  
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