

Dear project team,

Rather than addressing each individual question contained in the *Enhancing SIRA's research program* consultation paper dated May 2021, Business NSW would like to make the following observations:

Research priorities

Business NSW agrees with the listed research priorities but would like to see how each is ranked or weighted in terms of importance and/or urgency.

While mindful of the need to be aware of emerging trends, Business NSW believes that SIRA's focus needs to be on identifying how to arrest and reverse the protracted decline in return to work rates and implementing its strategy as a matter of urgency.

Research objectives

Business NSW would like to see a stronger emphasis on utilising networks, particularly through employer and worker representatives, to ensure both geographically and sector-wide concerns are both captured and well understood.

In addition, Business NSW sees the value in conducting smaller-scaled pilot programs featuring alongside the more theoretical co-design approach.

Success measures

The current level of assistance being provided to employers, especially in relation to claims management and how to understand (and, if necessary, challenge) their premium notices is poor.

Business NSW would like to see the success measures include a reference to improved outcomes for employers as well as for injured workers.

Regards,

Liz

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