



MEDIA RELEASE

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Creating trust in workers comp

Injured workers in the Parramatta area will be joining thought leaders, businesses, innovators and entrepreneurs at the Ufirst Deep Dive event to increase people's capacity to return to work after an injury.

Eugene McGarrell, icare's GM Health & Community Engagement, said Parramatta was selected by Ufirst, icare's research centre, as the first location for a Deep Dive because of the significant number of injured workers in Sydney's second largest CBD.

"icare figures show that not only are the numbers of injured workers in the region higher than the state' average for the state, but that workers here take much longer to return to work. Across NSW, 75 per cent of injured workers return to work within six weeks. In Paramatta, the average ranges from over four months to nearly 11 months," said Mr McGarrell.

"We want to get a better understanding of why this unique situation has arisen and find solutions that meet the specific needs of the local area. We want to do this by creating an accident and compensation system that is trusted.

"Our philosophy at icare is that it is everyone's responsibility to create an environment that supports and enables injured workers to return to work – families, businesses and the entire community must be on board.

"So, firstly, we need to understand why people in Parramatta are getting injured and what we can do as a collective to get them back to work sooner. We believe a trusted accident and compensation system is a critical element in empowering people's recovery. Our research shows that trust in their support system is the key enabler for people recovering from injury and returning to work."

Local leaders who have developed businesses that people trust will be speaking at the forum. It also has support of the City of Parramatta Council, the Western Sydney Collective and the Western Sydney Community Forum who are both currently involved in community work in Parramatta and Western Sydney.

"Workers compensation is a complex issue. We need to bring in new thinking to achieve these goals. This requires listening to people who know the system along with others who will bring in new thinking," said Mr McGarrell.

"We want to identify barriers and find solutions to create trust between the accident and compensation system and the injured person, their family and community.

"There will be follow-up sessions and we are planning to run Deep Dives across the state."

Media contact: Phyllis Sakinofsky media@icare.nsw.gov.au | 02 9216 3971

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