MINISTER LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN CHANGING TO MOTOR ACCIDENT BENEFITS

A Territory wide advertising campaign will begin this weekend to advise Territorians of important changes to their benefits under the Motor Accidents Compensation (MAC) Scheme.

Launching the campaign today, Treasurer Syd Stirling said he was keen to inform Territorians of the changes and conduct necessary under new laws.

“In April, the Territory Government passed legislative changes to the Motor Accidents (Compensation) Act (MACA) in order to make benefits fairer for Territorians seriously injured in motor accidents,” said Mr Stirling.

“These changes will take effect from 1 July, so it is important to inform Territorians of what they have to do to receive full benefits.”

The Treasurer said the changes are being introduced in response to a comprehensive Government review of motor accident compensation benefits during 2006.

“An extensive public consultation process was also conducted in the development of the legislative reforms and the views of stakeholders are reflected in the changes,” said Mr Stirling.

“The changes to the MAC scheme will provide improved benefits to a wider range of Territorians seriously injured as a result of motor accidents.”

Other key changes involve creating a single system of benefits, regardless of residency of the injured person and location of accidents.

This means that motor vehicle accident compensation benefits have been extended to include accidents on private property.

“People injured will continue to be entitled to medical benefits but unsafe conduct on our roads may reduce other benefits,” said the Treasurer.

“People will be penalised for failing to wear a seatbelt or helmet (if required), acting recklessly, driving an unregistered vehicle or under the influence of alcohol or drugs.”

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