



Hon Mike Nahan MLA
Treasurer



Hon Donna Faragher MLC
Minister for Disability Services

1/5/16

JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT

Community support for expanded insurance

- **Expanded motor vehicle injury insurance covers WA's 1.8 million motorists**

The State Government today launched Western Australia's expanded motor vehicle injury insurance cover for people catastrophically injured in accidents, announcing Matt Cook as a community supporter.

The Motor Vehicle (Catastrophic Injuries) Bill 2016 has received Royal Assent, ensuring all WA motorists catastrophically injured in motor vehicle crashes from July 1, 2016 will receive treatment, care and support for the rest of their lives.

In the coming weeks, WA motorists will start to receive their vehicle registration renewal notices, which will include the maximum cost of \$99 for lifetime care and support.

Treasurer Mike Nahan said Mr Cook, who received tetraplegic injuries when he was catastrophically injured in a motor vehicle crash at the age of 25, would help explain how the changes impact WA's 1.8 million motorists.

"Matt and others have pledged support for the expansion of motor vehicle injury insurance to ensure people in their situation in the future receive lifetime care and support," Dr Nahan said.

"The feedback from extensive public consultation was that we needed to explain to motorists that they will be covered from July 1, 2016 if they are catastrophically injured in a crash in WA. Currently, many people don't realise that if, for example, your vehicle hits a kangaroo and you are catastrophically injured, you may not be covered if you were either at fault or unable to identify another driver at fault."

Disability Services Minister Donna Faragher said extensive consultation had been undertaken with the health and disability sector, motorists and the wider community.

"The Insurance Commission of Western Australia and National Disability Services of Western Australia will host another consultation forum on June 2, 2016 to provide the health and disability sector with further detail about the delivery of care and support services," Mrs Faragher said.

"I encourage health and disability service providers to attend this session and continue to work collaboratively with the Insurance Commission as they deliver this life-changing initiative for people catastrophically injured in crashes and their families after July 1."

The cost of the expanded insurance cover will be a maximum of \$99 in the first year for each vehicle and motorcycle, with smaller increases for tractors, mopeds, vintage cars and farm firefighting vehicles. There will be no increases for caravans and trailers.

Fact File

- **Catastrophic injuries are spinal cord injuries, traumatic brain injuries, multiple amputations, severe burns and permanent traumatic blindness**
- **WA's motor injury insurance (\$409) remains cheaper than similar insurance covers in South Australia (\$488), Victoria (\$494), the Northern Territory (\$544), the Australian Capital Territory (\$585) and New South Wales (\$638)**
- **For more information, visit <http://www.icwa.wa.gov.au>**

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