

**Legislative Council—No 85**

As introduced and read a first time, 22 March 2023

South Australia

**Return to Work (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder)  
Amendment Bill 2023**

A BILL FOR

An Act to amend the *Return to Work Act 2014*.

---

## Contents

### Part 1—Preliminary

1 Short title

### Part 2—Amendment of *Return to Work Act 2014*

2 Amendment of section 4—Interpretation

3 Amendment of section 9—Evidentiary provision

4 Amendment of Schedule 1—Presumptive employment

### Schedule 1—Transitional provision

1 Transitional provision

---

**The Parliament of South Australia enacts as follows:**

## **Part 1—Preliminary**

### **1—Short title**

This Act may be cited as the *Return to Work (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) Amendment Act 2023*.

## **Part 2—Amendment of *Return to Work Act 2014***

### **2—Amendment of section 4—Interpretation**

Section 4(1)—after the definition of *SAMFS* insert:

*SASES* means the South Australian State Emergency Service;

### **3—Amendment of section 9—Evidentiary provision**

(1) Section 9(2)—after paragraph (a) insert:

(ab) subject to the qualification that if a worker who has been employed as a first responder is diagnosed with post traumatic stress disorder, the disorder is presumed, in the absence of proof to the contrary, to have arisen from employment; and

(2) Section 9—after subsection (4) insert:

(5) In this section—

*first responder* means—

- (a) an ambulance officer; or
- (b) a police officer; or
- (c) a firefighter; or
- (d) a nurse; or
- (e) a medical practitioner; or

- (f) a member of SACFS or SASES—
- (i) for whom the Crown is the presumptive employer; and
  - (ii) who, in the course of that presumptive employment, has dealt with emergencies; or
- (g) any other person—
- (i) for whom the Crown is the presumptive employer; and
  - (ii) who, in the course of that presumptive employment, has dealt with emergencies; or
- (h) a person of a class prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this definition.

#### **4—Amendment of Schedule 1—Presumptive employment**

- (1) Schedule 1, clause 1(3)(a)—after subparagraph (i) insert:

(ia) members of SASES who voluntarily perform work in connection with that membership;

- (2) Schedule 1, clause 1(3)(b)—after subparagraph (i) insert:

(ia) in relation to a member of SASES under paragraph (a)(ia)—

(A) any activity directed towards dealing with an emergency that requires SASES to act to protect life, property or the environment; or

(B) attending in response to a call for assistance by SASES; or

(C) attending a SASES meeting, competition, training exercise or other organised activity; or

(D) any other activity carried out in relation to the functions of SASES under the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005*; and

## **Schedule 1—Transitional provision**

### **1—Transitional provision**

An amendment made by this Act to the *Return to Work Act 2014* extends to a claim made under Part 4 of that Act before the commencement of the amendment unless the claim has been determined and all rights of review and appeal in relation to the determination have been exhausted.