The University of Auckland’s ACC Group and AUT’s Centre for Occupational Health and Safety Research

The future of ACC in jeopardy

The Confidence and Supply Agreement with the Act announced yesterday gives the green light to the privatisation of the work account of the ACC scheme.

ACC will no longer be competing with private insurers.

National had said pre-election that ACC would remain as the default provider when private insurance companies were introduced for work accidents. It was clear to observers however that keeping ACC as default provider meant that it would not work. Firms would largely opt for the status quo.

It was inevitable therefore that post-election National would find some way to remove this impediment.

“Conveniently the need to accommodate Jon Banks has provided this opportunity” says Associate Professor Susan St John of the ACC group.

“New Zealand in grave danger of losing both what is best about the ACC scheme and our place as a world leader in accident compensation.”

The University of Auckland’s ACC Group and AUT’s Centre for Occupational Health and Safety Research have recently authored a critical review of National’s experience rating scheme. In August a conference was held with ACC futures coalition that outlines the dangers that the ACC scheme faces.

More details are included in PensionBriefing 2011-1 (PDF 181.3KB).

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