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OZ LOTTO

DRAW NO. 1067

43 15 30

38 10 1

31 22, 35

Supplementary numbers

DIVISION 1: \$15 MILLION
TOTAL POOL: \$21,388,730.88
WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
WILL APPEAR TOMORROW

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Senator's disturbing visits

SIMON BENSON

AN internal report provided to the Immigration Department has warned that when Greens Senator Sarah Hanson-Young turns up at a detention centre, there is a corresponding spike in "incidents" involving asylum seekers.

The operational brief provided by the security company Serco to the Department of Immigration and Border Protection claimed "high profile" visits to detention centres

sparked an increase in reportable "incidents" and "adverse behaviour" among detainees.

The report, obtained by *The Advertiser*, cites lawyers and refugee groups among those considered high profile, and which were believed to prompt spikes in incidents at the centres during and after a visit.

But it also singled out Ms Hanson Young - naming her as the "Greens Senator from South Australia" - and cites a visit to Christmas Island in January this year as being a

catalyst for serious disturbances among the detainees.

The department yesterday refused Ms Hanson-Young entry into Curtin detention centre in WA after she demanded access to the 157 Tamil asylum seekers brought to the mainland after three weeks at sea aboard a Customs vessel.

The Serco report, however, revealed that during a visit by the Senator to Christmas Island between January 24 to 28 this year, the number of incidents more than doubled to 15

from an average of around six.

An accompanying graph showed the number of incidents peaked at 15 on the second day of her visit.

It did not specify the types of incidents but claimed the visits caused "anxiety" and "elevated levels of adverse behaviour".

It claimed that one "incident of significance" required crowd control.

Ms Hanson-Young yesterday claimed to have flown to Broome from Adelaide and

had been driving to the Curtin centre when she was told she would be denied entry.

She said that she was concerned about the welfare of a number of children in the centre and claimed it had been the first time she had been denied access.

"This is a political move by the Immigration Minister. What is he hiding?," she said.

Ms Hanson-Young could not be contacted for comment on the Serco report through her media adviser.

Injured drivers 'refused' payouts

FROM PAGE 1

DBH partner Peter Humphries and Law Society president Morry Bailes have told *The Advertiser* that with the first cases since the changes on July 1, 2013, now being finalised, the public should be fully aware of the consequences of the amendments.

"The State Government has been less than honest with the people of this state," Mr Bailes said.

Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis, however, says lawyers complaining about the scheme are motivated by their own commercial interests.

Under the new system, drivers have to score more than 11 out of 100 points on an injury-severity scale to get compensation over and above loss of income and medical bills, or "pain and suffering" payments.

Injuries among the dozens that no longer qualify as pain and suffering include total loss of taste or smell, wasting and weakness, hair pulled out causing bald patches, broken arms or legs, minimal brain damage, minor psychiatric conditions, simple cheekbone fractures, loss of or serious damage to two or three teeth, minor damage to face, and minor but permanent impairment of vision in one eye.

The Government says the changes were meant to make car insurance more affordable and had saved the average motorist \$140 over the last and current financial years.

Mr Humphries said motorists should be equally concerned that a score of 8/100 had to be reached to qualify for any compensation for future loss of earnings.

He used the example of someone who required both hands for typing but, according to the new rules, could score as little as 6/100 for a hand injury defined as "a crush injury, penetrating wound or deep laceration, requiring surgery, moderately serious tendon or nerve damage".

SOME INJURIES WHICH WILL NOT QUALIFY FOR PAIN AND SUFFERING COMPENSATION

UNDER THE NEW SYSTEM, DRIVERS HAVE TO SCORE MORE THAN 11 OUT OF 100 POINTS ON AN INJURY-SEVERITY SCALE TO GET COMPENSATION OVER AND ABOVE LOSS OF INCOME AND MEDICAL BILLS.



- Broken leg or arm **0-10 points.**
- Minimal brain damage **0-5.**
- Minor psychiatric condition **0-7.**
- Simple cheekbone fracture **0-5.**
- Loss of or serious damage to 2 or 3 teeth, moderate gum injury or moderate gum infection **3-5.**
- Minor cosmetic damage to face **6-10.**
- Minor but permanent impairment of vision in one eye **6-10.**
- Total loss of taste, smell or both **6-9.**
- A dislocation or torn cartilage or meniscus of the knee causing ongoing minor instability, wasting and weakness **6-10.**
- Hair pulled out causing bald patches **0-3.**
- Amputation of fingers **5-20.**
- Minor brain damage **6-20.**
- Damaged facial nerves with permanent paralysis of some facial muscles **6-13.**
- Moderate hearing loss **6-11.**
- Injury involving serious traumatic injury to the chest or organs in the chest cavity, causing moderate disability and ongoing medical problems **11-20.**
- Lung disease causing breathing difficulties, short disabling breathlessness, requiring frequent use of inhaler **11-24.**
- Loss of part or all of the penis **5-25.**
- Loss of both testicles **5-37.**
- Infertility if the crash victim already has a child **9-15.**
- Moderately serious tendon or nerve damage **6-15.**
- Amputation of all toes **8-20.**

- Source: South Australian regulations

CHANGES TO CTP INSURANCE

■ Medical bills and lost wages are covered for all injuries. However, now there is no compensation for pain and suffering unless the injury is rated more than 10/100.
 ■ In comparison, the Queensland scheme from which SA modelled the changes allows \$1290 in pain and suffering payment for the most minor injury and \$14,100 for an injury which rates 10. South Australians are

compensated \$3000 for an injury rated 11 and those in Queensland \$15,890.
 ■ Only injuries above a score of 8/100 are eligible for compensation for loss of future earning capacity.
 ■ Rights to a lawyer are denied for compensation claims below \$25,000, leaving victims to represent themselves against insurance firms.

"Every motorist must understand that these changes will mean there will be people who have lost the ability to return to their pre-accident employment, like the typist, and who will not be getting any compensation for loss of earnings and that will lead to, in some cases, people not being able to pay the mortgage and so forth," he said.

"There are many jobs in which a minor injury can des-

troy future earnings, such as a back injury for an interstate truck driver. But these are now eliminated for lost-earnings compensation because they score less than 8/100."

As part of a campaign to reverse the changes to the compensation scheme, lawyers have compiled examples of the new system's failings.

Examples provided by the Law Society and Duncan Basheer Hannon include:

A DRIVER who lost an eye being eligible for \$22,000 in pain-and-suffering compensation in SA, compared to \$57,000 in Queensland.

A PEDESTRIAN, 58, who was previously eligible for \$145,000 in pain-and-suffering payments, but now just \$15,000 for a pelvis fractured in four places, a broken lower back, a broken collar bone requiring surgery, and a haematoma on a thigh that required surgery and left scarring.

A DRIVER who suffered a back injury who would have been paid \$20,000 by WorkCover if the injury had happened at work, but who was now eligible for nothing in pain-and-suffering payments.

In response Mr Koutsantonis said: "It is no surprise that the Law Society is unhappy with changes that affect their hip pocket.

"We have been very open that, as a result of the new Lifetime Support Authority, there

would need to be changes to the lower end of the scheme which affect those who sustain more minor injuries as a result of a vehicle accident.

"Under the previous system, about 40 per cent of catastrophically injured road accident victims were left without compensation from the CTP insurance scheme because there is no one else at fault. As a result of the reforms, people who are catastrophically injured in a motor vehicle accident are now looked after for the rest of their lives.

"This means motorists who suffer life-long disabilities like paraplegia, quadriplegia, brain injury, whole limb or multiple amputation, severe burns or blindness in a motor vehicle accident will qualify for treatment, care and support, regardless of fault. In addition, the changes have reduced the price of vehicle registrations for South Australians."

PAGE 22: EDITORIAL