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Title:
Notes for Australian Workers' Union Annual Report

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On the State scene the Dunstan Labor Government pressed ahead with the reform programme for which it won a mandate at the 1973 election.

Major reform affecting South Australian workers was the coming into force on January 1, 1974 of the new Workers Compensation Act.

This radical overhaul of the legislation has, as its main provision, workers' entitlement during periods of temporary incapacity to average earnings. The scope of compensation payments was also considerably enlarged.

New industrial safety, health and welfare regulations were brought into force on April 1, 1974 providing new emphasis on safety in the workplace.

State Cabinet has begun an examination into requirements for a scheme of long service benefits for casual employees in industry generally.

Inspectors of the Department of Labour and Industry made 335 inspections of shearers accommodation during 1973 to ensure that award conditions were being made. Action was taken where the accommodation was unsatisfactory.

Initial steps were taken to introduce a meaningful system of industrial democracy in South Australia.

Further consumer protections were brought in, notably Australia's first system of urban land price control to keep home prices within reach of the worker and his family.