

## **Appendix A Hierarchy of Objectives**

Objective 1 – Same Work with Same Employer (worker is able to return to pre-injury job, with some restrictions). Wherever possible, the employer should be encouraged to accommodate the worker in graduated return to work or modified duties.

Objective 2 – Different Work Same Employer (restrictions preclude returning to the pre-injury position). The VRS will undertake any additional vocational testing or skills analysis necessary to determine if the worker has the skills, aptitudes and experience that are transferable to alternate work.

Objective 3 – Same Work Different Employer (pre-injury employer unable to accommodate in any capacity; alternatives in the same or related industrial sector are considered). Little intervention may be required, but additional earnings loss benefits during a notice period or employment readiness program may be provided, as necessary.

Objective 4 – Different Work Different Employer (the worker is unable to return to employment in the same or related industry). Vocational exploration will expand to suitable opportunities in other occupational sectors where the worker's existing inventory of transferable skills, aptitudes, and interests may be used.

Objective 5 – Training and Education (existing skills are insufficient to restore the worker to suitable employment). The development of new occupational skills will be considered through academic, technical or on-the-job training programs.

Objective 6 – Self Employment (this may only be offered where all other objectives have been exhausted or it is the only viable option for reaching maximum pre-injury earnings). Generally, this will apply to those workers in remote areas where employment and education opportunities are scarce, the plan is cost-effective compared with other reasonable return to work alternatives and there is a high probability of success.