

## Compo Win for laborer

A LABORER who had his legs amputated after a sawmill accident will get more than \$550,000 compensation.

Doctors removed Gippsland worker and diabetic Craig Bice's lower left leg six months after a plank tumbled from a chain on to his foot on November 22, 1994.

Insurers for Orbst-based employer Smith Bros (Australia) Pty Ltd denied negligence.

But this week it struck an out-of-court settlement. A second bout of legal action will soon be launched in the County Court over allegations Mr Bice's return to work eventually led to the amputation of his right leg.

Lawyer Lee Flanagan, alleges the leg buckled under too much strain and suffered stress micro-fractures after his client returned to work in September, 1995.

It was amputated in January 1997.

A company spokesman could not be contacted yesterday.

It is believed the firm will fight the allegations.

By KAREN COLLIER