

## SUBMISSION FOR SIRA

### HEALTH OUTCOMES AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK OF NSW WORKERS COMPENSATION AND CTP SCHEMES.

The aim of the PIC (Personal Injury Commission) is to deliver Value based care to injured persons. By putting WCC and MAA under the same banner ie PIC as part of SIRA (State Insurance Regulatory Authority) is to streamline processes to provide for more rapid response to processing injured persons' claims be it for whole person impairment, treatment disputes and causation. By combining the two groups of assessors it is proposed to have claims attended to earlier, resolved quicker and avoid delays in treatment recommendations.

Protracted dispute resolution often results in post traumatic disorder in its own right and obfuscated treatment disputes can lead to increased morbidities in claimants as well as leading to worsening of the claimants physical and psychological status. Deterioration reduces early return to work, decreases work conditioning and reduces employability and may lead to loss of remunerative vocations altogether.

If PIC can expedite claims processing, the impact on injured workers and motor vehicle accidents victims, will be lessened on themselves, their families and their workplace.

The guidelines for Allied Health Treatment are important because if treatment such as physiotherapy, acupuncture, exercise physiology, chiropractic and osteopathy are not achieving benefit or have reached a plateau, then such treatments should be tailed off to save expenditure. For ADL's (activities of daily living) the best assessment for ongoing needs and assistive devices should be ratified after a home visit by an OT. Their reports are critical to such areas such as home improvements eg bath rail, and aides to domestic chores such as long handled equipment to do cleaning and yard work, and if necessary, the need for commercial assistance.

The role of MAS and WCC assessments is to not only provide WPI (whole person impairment) but to provide the need for reasonable and necessary treatment eg cortisone injections, arthroscopy, joint reconstruction, and spinal and hand surgery. Trauma is generally straight forward, but costs are incurred later if claimants develop secondary conditions such as DVT, wound infection, pulmonary emboli and non unions. By facilitating conservative and operative intervention, and providing earlier WPI and OT Assessments, as well as work fitness, PIC can streamline the process to improve health outcomes of injured persons.

The New Rules Committee of PIC has been formed with lawyers, but only one medical representative of FRACS/ FRACP/FANZCP combined, but it is believed that for PIC to function more smoothly representation by the AOA as well would be better.

Drew Dixon  
President  
Medico-Legal Society of the AOA.