



17 April 2023

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Kia ora

**Your Official Information Act request, reference: GOV-023996**

Thank you for your email of 21 March 2023, asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982:

*Can you please advise the rationale for withdrawing massage funding from clients whilst continuing to fund Mirimiri. Both are useful tools to assist in the treatment of dissociation often experienced by survivors.*

**ACC has not made any decisions to withdraw funding for massage-related therapy**

ACC can consider funding massage therapy on individual claims on a case-by-case basis as a social rehabilitation entitlement. Massage therapy is not listed as a key aspect of social rehabilitation under the Accident Compensation Act 2001, so any consideration for funding is made under the 'other social rehabilitation' provisions under section 82 that Act. This allows ACC to provide other types of social rehabilitation based on the following criteria:

- it is required as a direct consequence of the covered personal injury
- the client is assessed or reassessed under section 84 as needing it; and
- ACC considers that: the purpose of the social rehabilitation is to assist in restoring a client's independence to the maximum extent practicable; and is necessary and appropriate; and is a type of social rehabilitation normally provided by a rehabilitation provider.

Whereas Mirimiri is part of a broader mātauranga Māori treatment approach, which ACC supports under its Rongoā Māori services. For more information about Rongoā Māori, including the rationale for ACC's support of it, please refer to the ACC website at: [www.acc.co.nz/about-us/rongoa-maori-services/](http://www.acc.co.nz/about-us/rongoa-maori-services/).

**If you have any questions about this response, please get in touch**

You can email me at [GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz](mailto:GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz). You can also complain to the Ombudsman via [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phoning 0800 802 602. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Ngā mihi

Sara Freitag

**Acting Manager Official Information Act Services**

Government Engagement