

3 March 2017



Concussion Awareness New Zealand  
Email: [fyi-request-5333-0cdf524b@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-5333-0cdf524b@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Concussion Awareness New Zealand

### Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your request of 6 February 2017, asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- 1) Does the Corporation have any updated information/guidelines that include Concussion/mTBI issues solely in the context of Workplace and in the Home rather than Sports*
- 2) Are there statistics held whereby claimants have made a claim where there has been an initial injury/trauma to cranium (or any other part of body) and then a subsequent claim has been made afterwards for a Concussion/mTBI complication*
- 3) Where does ACC obtain their Concussion-related Guidelines/Professional advice from in order to assess Concussion-related injuries and Entitlement's applied for by Claimants*

#### Our response

*1) Does the Corporation have any updated information/guidelines that include Concussion/mTBI issues solely in the context of Workplace and in the Home rather than Sports*

ACC does not provide any clinical guidelines concerning concussion or traumatic brain injury (TBI). There are a number of clinical guidelines available internationally that are supported by the World Health Organisation.

ACC does publish information on concussion and TBI which is not focussed on sports injuries. For example, the ACC website (under 'Making a Claim' followed by 'What support can I get?') has a section 'Rehabilitation resources after a traumatic brain injury (TBI)' which was published in October 2016. This section contains a number of resources and can be found at the following link: <http://www.acc.co.nz/making-a-claim/what-support-can-i-get/WPC139349>.

*2) Are there statistics held whereby claimants have made a claim where there has been an initial injury/trauma to cranium (or any other part of body) and then a subsequent claim has been made afterwards for a Concussion/mTBI complication*

Information for the last five years is provided in the attached Table One. The information has been compiled by searching for claims with an injury diagnosis of concussion or read code of concussion, and then filtering for instances where they had a previous accepted claim in the preceding 30 days.

To provide context, the total number of new and accepted concussion claims in the last five years is provided in Table Two.

#### Interpreting the information

Claims are recorded by the date on which the claim was registered with ACC, which can be immediately after the injury occurred or at any later stage.

ACC does not disclose small numbers below certain values to limit the potential for compromising individuals' rights to privacy. Accordingly, some entries in the tables attached only indicate that the relevant number of claims is less than four (" $\leq 3$ "). Withholding in this way is necessary to protect the privacy of identifiable individuals under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. In doing so, we have considered the public interest in making the information available and have determined that it does not outweigh the need to protect the privacy of natural persons.

*3) Where does ACC obtain their Concussion-related Guidelines/Professional advice from in order to assess Concussion-related injuries and Entitlement's applied for by Claimants*

ACC does not assess concussion related injuries. We do assess a client's entitlements based on the diagnosis and needs assessment provided by clinical professionals in the health system. Each of the clinical professionals is expected to be up to date with current practice on the diagnosis and treatment of concussion and TBI as per their speciality. ACC staff are trained on the services available to meet the needs of the client. The services are reviewed regularly and service development ensures they reflect current models of care.

#### **ACC is happy to answer your questions**

If you have any questions or concerns about the information provided, ACC will be happy to work with you to resolve these. Please address any concerns by emailing [GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz](mailto:GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz) or in writing to *Government Services, PO Box 242, Wellington 6140.*

If you're unhappy with ACC's response, you may make a complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman. You can call them on 0800 802 602 between 9am and 5pm on weekdays, or write to *The Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.*

Yours sincerely

**Government Services**

**Table One: Number of claimants that had a subsequent concussion claim registered within 30 days of another claim**

<b>Initial claim injury site</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Head (Except Face)	258	235	218	225	269
Back/Spine	135	162	184	224	226
Knee	140	152	188	182	224
Face	156	179	169	137	187
Shoulder (Including Clavicle/ Blade)	120	126	152	182	178
Ankle	106	114	151	163	172
Finger/ Thumb	112	112	127	117	156
Neck/ Back of Head Vertebrae	95	126	104	134	144
Hand/ Wrist	127	101	115	134	135
Unknown	90	99	113	108	118
Hip/ Upper Leg/ Thigh	83	91	96	126	110
Upper and Lower Arm	75	77	72	90	96
Lower Leg	62	71	73	70	86
Chest	46	50	58	61	77
Foot	46	66	61	57	66
Elbow	43	36	30	27	33
Eye	24	25	24	28	29
Nose	17	20	10	14	21
Toe	28	37	33	28	21
Abdomen/ Pelvis	14	16	14	21	20
Internal Organ	15	14	13	14	14
Ear	9	22	..	..	13
Multiple Locations	5	11	<=3	<=3	7
<b>Total**</b>	<b>1,680</b>	<b>1,782</b>	<b>1,834</b>	<b>2,001</b>	<b>2,202</b>

\*\* note that a claimant can have multiple claims on multiple injury sites, so the Total is less than the sum of all injury sites

**Table Two: Number of new and accepted concussion claims**

	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Concussion claims</b>	23,745	23,980	24,564	26,111	28,076