

6 April 2018

Mr Anthony Jordan
fyi-request-7417-fa747c1e@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Jordan

Ref: 0051595

Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your request of 9 March 2018, asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

1/ Specific to Concussion and Mild Traumatic Brain Injury(s), what scope of practice does the ACC deem best to review such claims during an External Medical Review Panel

2/ Would it be acceptable for any professional not deemed within that scope to participate in a decision or take any part in influencing a decision

3/ Besides the published Concussion guidelines of 2006 collated by various entities and professionals, what process/resources does the ACC use to scrutinize information contained in the guidelines to ensure the best possible information and evidence-based practices are been used in New Zealand to identify, support and prevent Post-Concussion Syndrome/Mild Traumatic Brain Injury

4/ (Given recent research and evidence-based practice findings) Does the ACC intend to establish a service whereby those who have been identified as having a 'hidden' or 'neglected' Concussion/Mild Traumatic Brain Injury(s), can access

As it is my understanding the Concussion service is limited to those with an actual diagnosed Concussion claim within twelve months of injury(s)

Our response

Questions 1 and 2

We refer you to documentation provided to you on 7 July 2017, by your case manager, outlining the scope of practice of the External Medical Panel (the Panel).

Members of the Panel are comprised of three or four medical specialists with significant expertise in the field relevant to the client cases the Panel will be reviewing. They will have been endorsed by their professional body as being experts in their field.

In addition, we direct your attention to our earlier letter of today, Ref: 0051596, in which we referred you to the document titled "*Non-treating doctors performing medical assessments of patients for third parties*" found on the Medical Council of New Zealand website. This document outlines the standards of practice Panel members are expected to adhere to.

Question 3

We refer you to ACC's *Traumatic Brain Injury Strategy and Action Plan (2017-2021)*. The strategy provides a clear direction for the treatment and rehabilitation of people with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) to ensure that the right systems and services are in place. This document is publicly available on ACC's website under 'Resources'.

Question 4

We can confirm that a client can only be referred to Concussion Services within 12 months of their injury. There are already services available that clients may request who are diagnosed with a concussion/TBI injury more than 12 months after their accident. An example is ACC's Training for Independence–TBI Service, available for adults.

Comments or concerns

If you have any questions or concerns about the information provided, please email Government Engagement and Support at GES@acc.co.nz.

You also have the right to make a complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman about ACC's response. 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 Engagement and Support