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The Research Director

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Finance and Administration Committee

Parliament House

George Street

Brisbane QLD 4000



To whom it may concern,

This submission is written on behalf of the Chiropractors' Association of Australia (Queensland) Limited [CAAQLD]. The Association represents over 320 registered Chiropractors who practice in Queensland. Chiropractors in Queensland have had a history with the Workers Compensation scheme.

CAAQLD was consulted on the Structural Review of Institutional and Working Arrangements in Queensland's Workers' Compensation Scheme in 2010 by Robin Compton-Smith. The Association has appreciated a closer working relationship with Workcover by the introduction of Stakeholder forums.

CAAQLD is concerned at the high number of Common Law claims that exist. The improvement of Return to Work percentages have seen a slight decrease in common law claims, but not a significant decrease in the number of common law claims. CAAQLD is interested as to the reasons why injured workers end at the common law process. The possible reasons were not clear at the review. The Association encourages the gathering of patient satisfaction surveys during their Workers Compensation experience so that the reasons can be identified.

The association would like to comment on section 5 of the Act. Section 4 states

(4) It is intended that the scheme should—

(a) maintain a balance between—

(i) providing fair and appropriate benefits for injured workers or dependants and persons other than workers; and

(ii) ensuring reasonable cost levels for employers; and

CAAQLD believe that the current market share of work that chiropractors do, does not reflect a fair balance in the market place. In 2011- 21012 transaction year, data from Workcover Queensland indicated \$265,981 of chiropractic treatment costs made. Further data showed the average number of treatment sessions per claim were 5.8 and there was a 90.9% return to work.

These figures suggest 'cost effectiveness' with a high return to work outcome. Chiropractic management based on these figures would reduce outlay costs for Workcover and have flow on effects to premiums for employers and reduced time off work for employees.

There are many favourable references for chiropractic care in the management of neck and back musculoskeletal disorders in the Q-comp document of clinical guidelines for the Back.

CAAQLD questions why Chiropractic management, as an appropriate, cost effective treatment modality, is underutilised? CAAQLD proposes that the reasons for this include:-

1. The current referral mechanism is based on practitioner personal preference and not clinical effectiveness.
2. Injured workers in the open market place would decide on treatment modality in a more even market share distribution.

CAAQLD welcomes further consultation with members of Parliament to discuss how Chiropractic Management of the injured worker in Queensland can be of access and benefit.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Craig Matthews', with a stylized, flowing script.

Craig Matthews