

PETER AND HELEN BURKE

Sent: Tuesday, 7 July 2009 8:11 PM

To: Lowe-Carlus.Denise

Cc: PETER BURKE

Subject: Comments - policy review of Comcare's permanent impairment guide

Dear Denise,

I have read the lengthy discussion regarding review of Comcare's Permanent Impairment Guide and the review of Comcare generally.

There would be benefits from developing a guide based on NSW Workcover Guides. In NSW, approved medical specialists meet every two months to discuss problem cases, to attempt to attain a degree of uniformity in employing the guides and to recommend improvements to future versions of the Workcover Guides. Feedback is given from medical appeal panel decisions. The meetings are briefed on relevant judicial decisions.

Meetings are also held between arbitrators and medical assessors in an attempt to share legal and medical experience and improving wisdom.

While these mechanisms could be replicated under Comcare jurisdiction, there would seem to be benefits from adopting at least some parts of a system which appears to be steadily improving.

My colleagues in other states tell me they are envious of the way that NSW AMs are involved in the Workcover process.

Regards,
Peter Burke.