

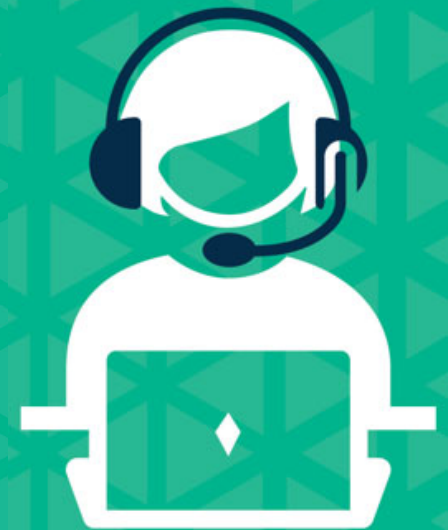


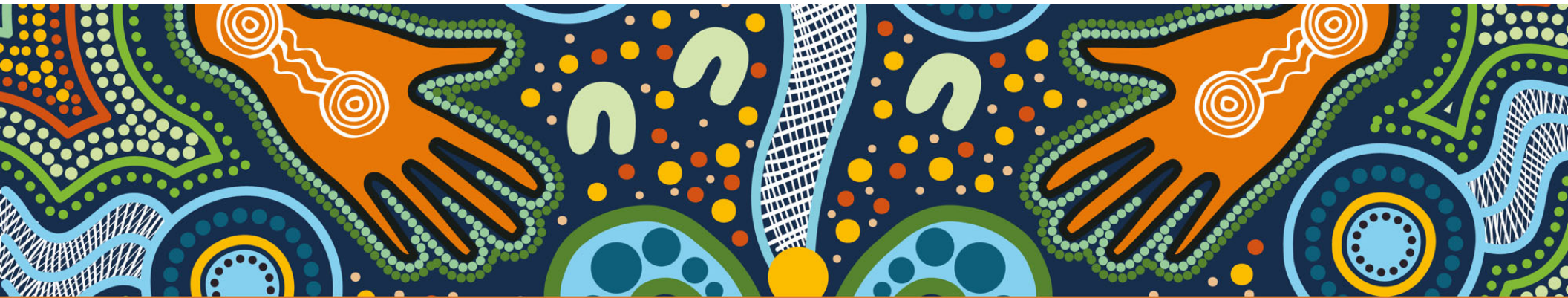
**Australian Government**

**Comcare**

# **Why recovery and return to work matters, and what makes a difference**

**Tuesday 28 November 2023**  
**11.30am – 12.30pm AEDT**





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# Acknowledgement of Country

Acknowledgement of artist

Healing Hands – Cover artwork by Dion Devow of Darkies Designs





# Housekeeping



**The session is being recorded**



**Camera off**



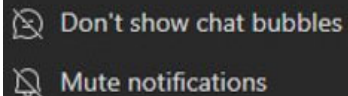
**Microphone muted**



**Teams Chat**

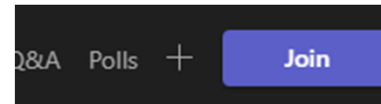
Turn off notifications:

- Click 'more'
- Then 'settings'
- Select both



**MS Teams Polls**

- The Live Polls will display on your screen as a prompt, or
- Use the banner on the top of your screen to access 'Polls'



- Having difficulties? Reply in the chat



**Survey**

Access the survey:

- QR Code
- Link
- Email



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# Session overview

Session 1: Why return to work matters	Session 2: Panel discussion
Mick Duke, General Manager, Scheme Management Group, Comcare	Peter Kirwan Tim Saunders Dr Catherine Kelaheer





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# Why return-to-work matters

## Key Content:

- The health benefits of good work
- Early contact, positive messaging and early intervention
- The benefits and challenges of RTW
- The importance of workplace culture





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# Why return-to-work matters

## RTW benefits:

- The individual
- The individual's family, colleagues and community
- Organisations
- Population health

## Health benefits of returning to work

Supporting injured and unwell workers back to work can assist in their recovery and return to good work.

Two thirds of workers reported being offered **modified or alternate duties**.



**37%**

of injured workers said returning to work helped their recovery.



**58%**

of workers with a mental illness said returning to work helped their recovery.



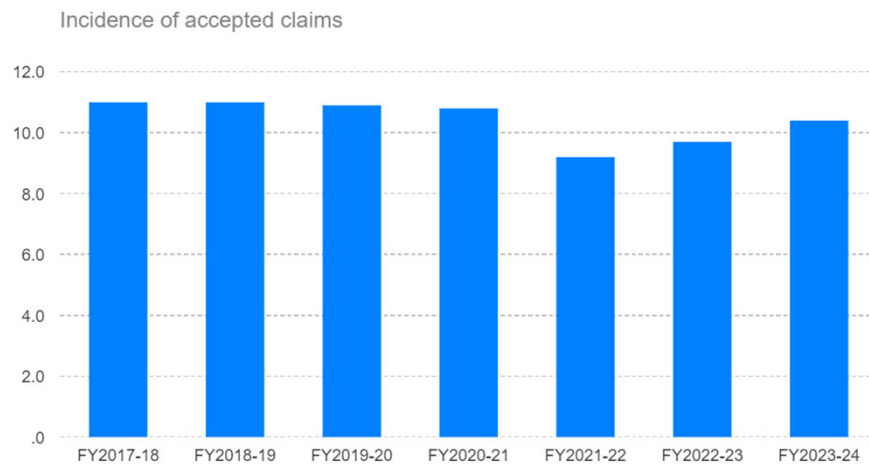
**93%**

of workers took up the option of modified or alternate duties when it was offered.

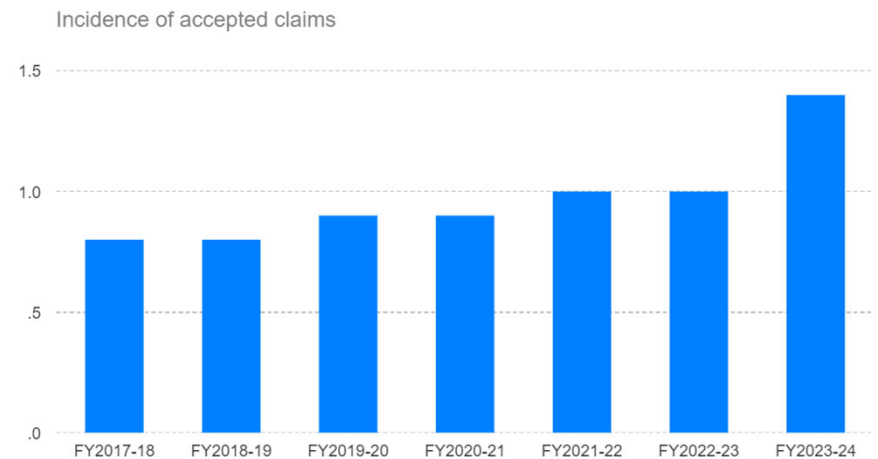


# Incidence of accepted claims

## All Injury types



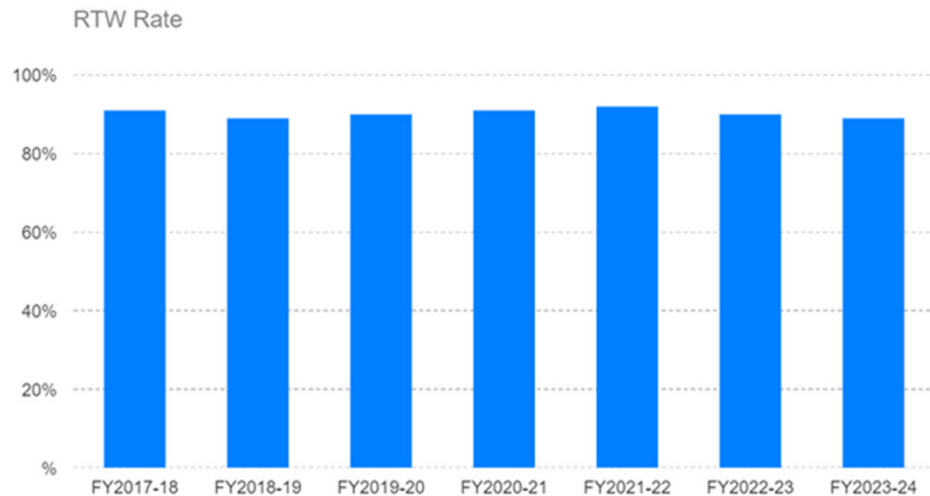
## Psychological Injury



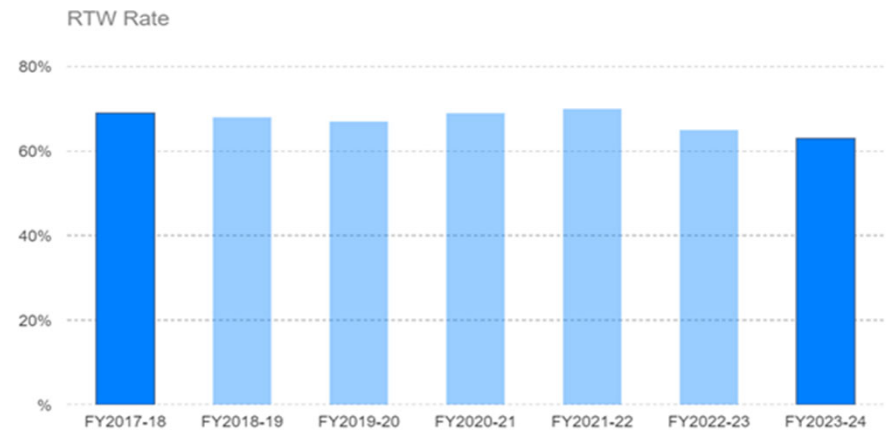


# Return to work rates

## All Injury types



## Psychological Injury







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# Organisation level support

## What can organisations do?

- Empowering the employee and supervisor (staff)
- Getting resourcing right
- Acting early (pre-claim)
- Measuring and monitoring RTW
- Setting strong culture and reducing stigma





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# Scheme Support

## How can Comcare help?

- RTW videos
- Guidance
- Training
- Forums/Webinars
- Approved WRP Panel
- Comcare website
- Policy and better practice advice



**Workshop: Psychosocial risk management**

Live learning (instructor led)  
Mode: Calendar and In-house  
Cost: Paid



**Good Work Design - Micro-learn suite**

Digital learning  
Mode: Self-paced Micro-learn  
Cost: Free



**eLearn: Early intervention - An overview for managers and supervisors**

Digital learning  
Mode: Self-paced  
Cost: Free





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# Panel discussion



**Peter Kirwan**

Senior Firefighter and Technical Instructor,  
Fire and Rescue NSW



**Tim Saunders**

Health Management and Rehabilitation Team Leader,  
Telstra



**Dr Catherine Kelahe**

Senior Medical Advisor: Occupational and Environmental Medicine,  
Department of Defence



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# Feedback survey

***Thank you for attending***

Please take a moment to complete our short evaluation survey



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[whs.help@comcare.gov.au](mailto:whs.help@comcare.gov.au)



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