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Rehabilitation and Compensation – Workers' Compensation

Doctor's guide to permanent impairment reassessment medical reports >

This information bulletin has been produced as a guide for doctors who participate in permanent impairment reassessment panels under Sections 71 and 72 of the [Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act](#).

Purpose

The purpose of the permanent impairment reassessment is to determine current functionality and the level of permanent impairment as a result of the work related injury or disease. A panel of three doctors organised by NT WorkSafe carries out the reassessment. The purpose is not to determine liability in respect of the work-related injury or disease, as this has already occurred.

The report

Upon conclusion of the doctor's examinations, the panel is required to submit a single report covering the following aspects of the permanent impairment, which have resulted only from the work-related injury or disease. The report may be signed by either the chairman or all three panel members.

The report must include:

- personal particulars of the worker;
- full name, address, date of birth, height, weight, physique and demeanor;
- details of sports, hobbies, recreational activities and habits;
- details of all reports, medical or otherwise, provided to the panel members;
- confirm the said impairment is stabilised and permanent;
- ensure that the American Medical Association Guides to the evaluation of Permanent Impairment (4th Edition) [hereafter referred to as the Guides] has been used consistently for the purposes of obtaining a percentage figure;
- be compiled in accordance with Chapter 2 of the Guides;
- refer to the relevant table/s and chapter/s of the guides from where the assessment is derived; and
- state a percentage level of permanent impairment of the 'whole of person' agreed to by all three members of the panel. The wording of the report in general is to reflect that it is a consensus of the three doctors and not the opinion of an individual member.

Please note that reference to the use of publications other than the Guides in the text of the report may render the reassessment invalid.

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Other variations

Individual opinions can be used within the body of the report where there is more than one injury or disease to be reassessed and these require the use of the Combined Values Chart in the Guides to achieve an overall percentage figure.

The final impairment value, whether the result of single or combined impairments, may be expressed in terms to the nearest 5%.

When two or more impairments exist, the value of each impairment is determined separately and combined to achieve a single 'whole of person' percentage figure using the Combined Values Chart.

If the panel believes that there are aspects of the injury or disease that may require the expertise of another specialist or further examinations (eg MRI, X-rays), the panel Chairperson should contact NT WorkSafe on 1800 250 713.

NT WorkSafe >

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