



What is a Medical Panel?

Medical Panels is an independent service that we may use to obtain answers to medical questions related to a dispute. We call this a referral to a Medical Panel.

Each Medical Panel is a group of expert specialist doctors who provide an Opinion to help resolve the dispute.

Medical Panels is independent and, like a tribunal, its opinions are final and binding. This means everyone involved in the dispute must accept them – including the Workplace Injury Commission.

Who can suggest a Medical Panel referral?

Any party can ask us to refer questions to a Medical Panel. The Conciliation Officer may also suggest a referral if they think it could help to resolve the dispute.

Any proposed referral will be discussed with the parties before it is made.

How do we decide whether to send a Medical Panel referral?

The Conciliation Officer considers:

- the medical questions
- any factual or legal issues
- the parties' opinions
- if the Medical Panel Opinion is likely to resolve the dispute.

What does the Workplace Injury Commission send to a Medical Panel?

A Medical Panel referral will include:

- information about the claimed injury
- agreed facts
- questions for the Medical Panel to answer
- copies of documents relevant to the dispute.

What happens at the Medical Panel?

Typically, an injured worker will see one or more doctors, either individually or jointly, for examination. For more information see the Medical Panels website

www.medicalpanels.vic.gov.au

How long will it take for a Medical Panel to provide its Opinion?

The Medical Panel must send us its Opinion within 67 days of the doctors receiving the referral.

This time may be extended if, for example, the Medical Panel needs more information or needs more time to give its Opinion. WIC will let the parties know if the time is extended.

What happens to the conciliation while waiting for the Medical Panel Opinion?

Once we refer questions to a Medical Panel, the conciliation process is on hold until we receive the Opinion.

What happens when the Medical Panel Opinion is received?

Once we receive the Opinion, we send a copy to each party and their representatives. We ask them to review the Opinion and respond to us within a set time – usually 7 days.

We then consider the responses and issue an Outcome Certificate which reflects the Medical Panel's Opinion and finalises the dispute.

What if a party does not agree with the Medical Panel Opinion?

The Medical Panel Opinion is binding and must be accepted by the parties and the Workplace Injury Commission.

Where a party believes there may be legal errors in the Opinion, there is the option of applying to the Supreme Court. Before



choosing this path, the party should consider seeking legal advice.

Where can I get more information?

For more information, see our *Medical Panel in Conciliation Policy and Procedure* on our website www.wic.vic.gov.au/resources or call us on 1800 635 960.

Need help?

For more information or assistance, please:

- call **03 9940 1111** or **1800 635 960**
- email **info@wic.vic.gov.au**
- visit **wic.vic.gov.au**

Do you need an interpreter?



If you have trouble understanding any of the information outlined please contact 131 450 and ask for the interpreter to contact the Workplace Injury Commission on 1800 635 960 or 9940 1111 to explain further.

إذا كنت تواجه مشكلة في فهم أي من المعلومات الموضحة، فيرجى الاتصال بالرقم 131 450 واطلب من المترجم الاتصال بلجنة الإصابات 9940 1111 أو 1800 635 960 في مكان العمل لمزيد من المعلومات اتصل على الرقم 1800 635 960 أو 9940 1111.

如果您对上述信息有疑问，请拨打 131 450，通过口译员联系工伤赔偿委员会，电话 1800 635 960 或 9940 1111，进行进一步咨询。

Ako ne razumijete ove informacije, nazovite 131 450 i zamolite tumača da vam nazovu Workplace Injury Commission (Komisiju za ozljede na radu) na 1800 635 960 ili 9940 1111 za objašnjenja.

Εάν δυσκολεύεστε να κατανοήσετε οποιαδήποτε από τις πληροφορίες που περιγράφονται, επικοινωνήστε με τον αριθμό 131 450 και ζητήστε από τον διερμηνέα να επικοινωνήσει με την Επιτροπή Τραυματισμών στο Χώρο Εργασίας (Workplace Injury Commission) στον αριθμό 1800 635 960 ή 9940 1111 για περαιτέρω διευκρινήσεις.

Se hai difficoltà a comprendere queste informazioni chiama il 131 450 e chiedi all'interprete di contattare la Workplace Injury Commission al 1800 635 960 o al 9940 1111 per una spiegazione più approfondita.

Ако имате тешкотии да разберете која било од наведените информации, ве молиме јавете се на 131 450 и побарајте преведувач да контактира со Workplace Injury Commission (Комисија за повреди на работното место) на 1800 635 960 или 9940 1111 заради натамошни објаснувања.

'Jeśli masz problemy ze zrozumieniem którejkolwiek z podanych informacji, zadzwoń pod numer 131 450 i poproś o tłumacza, aby skontaktował się z Workplace Injury Commission pod numerem 1800 635 960 lub 9940 1111 pod dalsze wyjaśnienia'.

Ako ne razumete ove informacije, nazovite 131 450 i zamolite prevodioca da vam nazovu Workplace Injury Commission (Komisiju za povrede na radu) na 1800 635 960 ili 9940 1111 da biste dobili objašnjenja.

"Si usted tiene dificultades para entender cualquier información expuesta, póngase en contacto con el 131 450 y pida que el intérprete contacte a la Workplace Injury Commission (Comision de Accidentes de Trabajo) llamando al 1800 635 960, a fin de obtener una explicación más detallada "