

Handling with Care

Optimising Injury Management for Efficiency and Wellbeing



Craig Bleakley Safety & Risk Consultant, ecoPortal



Injuries & Claims in Numbers



Non-fatal injuries:

- 899/100,000 workers in AU
- 1200/100,000 workers in NZ

*International Labour Organisation 2024



*WorkSafe New Zealand



Mental injuries made up 9% of all serious workers compensation claims in Australia in 2021-2022. *Safe Work Australia



Economic impact of injuries:

- NZ\$964,452,408 in 2022 alone
- Economy AU\$28.6B smaller

*Safe Work Australia + ACC New Zealand





What does the law say?

<u>Australia</u>

- Variations across states in Australia
- Most Australian states are required to have a Return to Work (RTW) programme or policies
- No consistency to who holds responsibility for the RTW plan
- Most locations require a robust auditing process of the Injury Management programme

New Zealand

- Employer must assist the claimant with their rehabilitation under their plan
- The plan must be updated from time to time to reflect assessment outcomes and progress made
- Assessment of the rehab needs must consist of an initial occupational assessment and an initial medical assessment to determine if the rehab duties are appropriate and sustainable.



Useful reference document



Bumps on the Road to Recovery

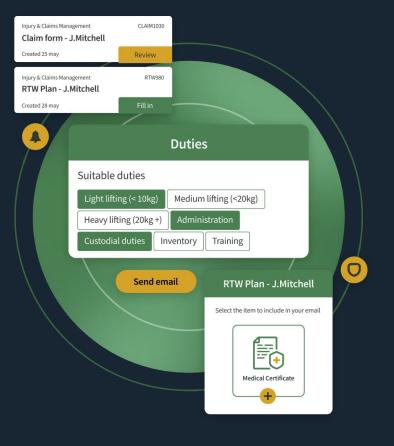






Complexity Breeds Inefficiency

- Complex administration processes & appointment handling
- Reliance on third parties
- Double-handling of information each step of the way
- Keeping on top of requirements and deadlines - especially if operating across multiple jurisdictions!



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Managing Communication Trails

- Meticulous attention to detail required for documentation
- Information sitting in inboxes or phone records
- Time-critical and sensitive nature of information that must be shared
- Injured worker, + third-party communication such as medical professionals, insurers, and case managers.

Worker Sig	n-Off	
Worker Signature		
And	<u> </u>	
Signed/witnessed by J.	Mitchell	
O Personal information secured		
	Injury & Claims Management	CLAIM1030
	Claim form - J.Mitchell	
	Created 25 may	Review
	Injury & Claims Management RTW Plan - J.Mitchell	RTW980
		Till in
	Created 28 may	Fill in

Consolidating and Reporting Injury & Claims data

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- Disparate systems, limited integration
- Formatting inconsistencies
- Pressure from business due to associated costs of injuries/claims

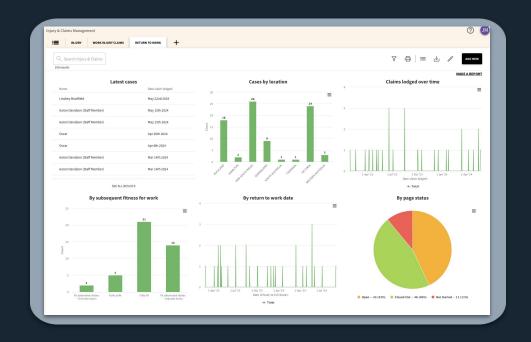


A Checklist for Optimising Injury Management

- 1. Are all your forms and data in one system? And are they connected?
- 2. Are you having to input the same information across multiple related forms?
- **3.** Are you being notified of impending deadlines? And are those notifications tailored to the regulations of the location where the injury occurred?
- 4. Can you set up different workflows based on data inputs?
- 5. Are you confident that you can keep your workers information confidential?
- **6.** Can you send and receive email communications with the injured worker, and external third parties in your system?
- 7. Does your injured worker have access to their information, and can they easily give feedback, or sign-off-even when they are at home?
- 8. Can you schedule regular welfare checks on injured workers throughout the RTW period?



Injury Management in ecoPortal







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George Blackburn



Lucia Fusco



Rob Leyland



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Wednesday 7 August | Eden Park, Auckland

Be part of the most ePIC health and safety conversation in 2024 at this free, one day event.

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Questions?

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