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Committee
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By email: RACPConsult@racp.edu.au

Draft documents on bringing evidence-informed practice to work injury schemes

Dear Hannah

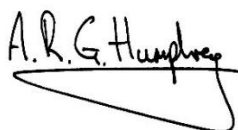
Thank you for inviting the New Zealand Medical Association (NZMA) to provide feedback on the above consultation. The NZMA is New Zealand's largest medical organisation, with about 5,000 members from all areas of medicine. The NZMA aims to provide leadership of the medical profession, and to promote professional unity and values, and the health of all New Zealanders. Our submission has been informed by feedback from our Board and Advisory Councils.

We welcome the work done by the Australasian Faculty of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (AFOEM) of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) to develop two documents on bringing evidence-informed practice to work injury schemes to help workers and their workplaces. We note that these papers explore the evidence regarding psychosocial factors as barriers to return to work (RTW) and the evidence about how these barriers can be lowered.

While the draft documents appear to be fairly comprehensive, they only briefly touch on cultural issues and are somewhat light on pre-existing health inequities and the social determinants of health. Furthermore, as they stand, they appear more relevant to an Australian context than a New Zealand one. As a binational College, we believe that the documents should make explicit reference to te Tiriti o Waitangi. It would also be useful to include more New Zealand-specific references if possible.

We hope our feedback is helpful.

Yours sincerely



Dr Alistair Humphrey
NZMA Chair