

**Submission  
No 51**

**INQUIRY INTO NSW WORKERS COMPENSATION  
SCHEME**

**Name:** Mr David Young

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## **PENNANT HILLS PHYSIOTHERAPY CENTRE**

11 May, 2012

Joint Select Committee on the NSW Workers Compensation Scheme

Parliament House

Macquarie St

Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Committee

I would like to make brief submission to the Inquiry on the NSW Worker's Compensation Scheme:

I have worked in the system as a registered physiotherapist since the legislation of 1987 was introduced. I have been appointed as an independent physiotherapy consultant by WorkCover NSW since 2002. I have dealt with injured workers, their doctors, treatment providers, claim agents, and the relatives of injured workers over that time. I have been asked (now on more than two thousand occasions) often to give my independent opinion as to what will be reasonably necessary physiotherapy and other physical treatment to injured workers.

From this experience I would identify several bottlenecks in the current system of identifying worker injury and the best management of those injuries as being:

- Providers who are not providing accurate diagnoses or treatment to injured workers are not managed in the system appropriately
- Only some of the physical treatment providers are trained by WorkCover on a regular basis.
- There is not the capacity of the system to cease treatment that is ineffective
- Worker capacity certification is open to poor management.

I suggest

- Maintaining the primary health care model of worker management
- It will be equitable to mandate five yearly training ( of at least eight hours face to face) of any provider in the system, inclusive of medical practitioners, clinical leaders in facilities that conduct rehabilitation programmes, non registrable providers, and alternative health care practitioners.
- Strengthen the capacity of WorkCover NSW to not pay for treatment that is not reasonably necessary, and to exclude providers from the system who regularly provide poor intervention.

David Young, Independent Physiotherapy Consultant

- When a worker's certificate for work capacity is disputed by WorkCover or its agent, enable a binding decision maker to overrule.

Yours sincerely,

David Young