

29 October 2014

Mr Anthony Jordan  
Via email at: [fyi-request-2009-56fb70c4@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-2009-56fb70c4@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Mr Jordan

### Official Information Act Request

I refer to your request of 11 September 2014, seeking information under the Official Information Act 1982. ACC has dealt with your questions in turn below:

*1/ Does the Corporation use the services and/or opinions of any professional that specialises in the field of Neuro-Optometry? The names of either individuals or clinics that are used and/or contracted would be appreciated.*

ACC can advise that there is no specific contract for Neuro-Optometry and ACC purchases such services through non-contracted mechanisms. Specialist services, such as Neuro-Optometry, would be purchased via a Traumatic Brain Injury supplier that holds contracts, such as the Concussion Service or Traumatic Brain Injury Residential Rehabilitation Service. Accordingly, ACC is unable to identify individuals and clinics as it would come under a non-specific purchase code.

*2/ Please provide guidelines and any other useful resource information back to the first date that the ACC was founded, that solely relates to the prevention, care and recovery of mTBI and post-concussion complications.*

As per ACC's letter of 8 October 2014, this question seeks a large quantity of information and is likely to require substantial collation and research. As advised, ACC was of the view that it may be able to avoid declining your request if you refined the amount of information you are seeking, and returned with a narrowed request so that it can be considered under the terms of the Act. ACC sought a response by 15 October 2014.

As ACC has not received a response to its letter of 8 October 2014 we are proceeding with our decision to decline your request under section 18(f) of the Act, as in its current form it would take substantial collation and research to address your request.

*3/ Is there at present or intend to be any investigations into mTBI and post-Concussion complications that are likely to either compliment the current July 2006 Guidelines or establish a separate set of Guidelines for mTBI altogether.*

ACC can confirm that, under the guidance of its Traumatic Brain Injury Strategy, it is planning to review the 2006 Traumatic Brain Injury Guidelines which will include consideration of Mild Traumatic Brain Injury.

*4/ Is there at present or intend to be any investigations into mTBI and post-Concussion issues with the intentions to be more in-line with modern day scientific evidence. for example: Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE)*

ACC is currently developing an implementation plan for Traumatic Brain Injury. A key part of this will be reviewing clinical and practice guidelines. Updates will be made as necessary.

*5/ If any of the above mentioned is unavailable due to information already available in public arena or no initiatives taken to investigate and research such Injuries and Impairments by the Corp, would the Corporation please provide the appropriate Archive centre to obtain Information and person(s) to submit recommendation to investigate such Injuries and Impairments for the purpose of insuring ACC are up-to-date and in line with Modern scientific research/findings*

ACC has addressed questions 1 to 4 above, and therefore will not be responding to this question. To clarify, under the Official Information Act ACC is required to provide official information that is held by the Corporation, however, it is not required to provide advice to individuals.

*6/ Please provide Statistical Information supporting the rehabilitation success rates where either maintaining independence in a vocational sense and/or complete rehabilitation back to fulltime employment by partly or solely using Neuro-optometric and Neuro-Ophthalmologic services/clinicians*

The information requested is not held by ACC as ACC does not have specific neuro-optometric or neuro-ophthalmologic contracts. ACC claimants often receive many services on their rehabilitation journey and therefore ACC cannot assign a client's recovery to a single service. Therefore we are declining your request under section 18(e) of the Act.

If you have any questions about the information provided, ACC will be happy to work with you to resolve these. You can direct any further communications to [Government.Services@acc.co.nz](mailto:Government.Services@acc.co.nz).

You have the right to make a complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman. You can call them on 0800 802 602, 9am to 5pm weekdays, or write to:

The Office of the Ombudsman  
P O Box 10 152  
WELLINGTON 6143

Yours sincerely

*Government Services Team*

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