

21 September 2021



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Tēnā koe Anthony

Your Official Information Act request, reference: GOV-013320

Thank you for your email of 9 August 2021, asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

1. *Names of Clinicians who have been Contracted by the ACC to attend External Medical Panel meetings for the purpose of perusing Claimants files and providing a Subsequent report (Since its establishment in December 2013)*
2. *Scope of Practice the ACC believes they are qualified to consult and make Subsequent Opinions*
3. *Scope of Practice the ACC believes they are qualified to consult and make Subsequent Diagnosis at such a meeting*
4. *Names of Panels Members used, by the ACC, to comment on Mild Traumatic Brain Injury/Concussion related files*
5. *Documentation provided to the ACC that would indicate those Panel members were appropriately qualified to consult in Mild Traumatic Brain Injury/Concussion issues*

Names of clinicians who attended External Medical Panel meetings

Due to the disestablishment of the External Medical Panel (EMP), and the recent changes in the way that ACC stores information, we have not been able to locate all the names of clinicians who attended EMP meetings since 2013. We have been able to identify a small number of panel members, but we are withholding these names, in order to protect their privacy under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. We have determined that there exists a low public interest in releasing the names of a very limited number of clinicians, and so their rights to privacy outlined in section 9(2)(a) outweigh the public interest in the release of this information.

Scope of practice and appropriate qualifications

The purpose of EMPs was 'to provide a medical opinion based on consensus around diagnosis, causation and management with the aim of resolving differing clinical interpretations in cases of clinical complexity'. This provided the panels with a broad representation of health professionals (including medical). Clinicians representing a range of medical specialties in a multidisciplinary panel allowed for a range of perspectives to be considered. ACC relies on clinical professionals to be competent in their scope of practice, which is confirmed by their regulatory authority.

ACC does not hold information on clinicians' qualifications, as we rely on the regulatory authority to confirm appropriate qualifications for practice. Therefore, we are refusing this part of your request as the information is not held by ACC. This decision is made under section 18(g) of the Act.

Who to contact

If you have any questions, you can email me at GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz.

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

Nāku iti noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sasha Wood', written in a cursive style.

Sasha Wood

Manager Official Information Act Services
Government Engagement & Support