

Guide for Mental Health Issues under Workers Compensation Allied Health Professionals

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Did you know that in 2019 Workcover made changes to support early intervention of clients suffering from psychological / psychiatric injuries?

Those changes were made to recognise that early intervention is crucial.

The change

From 2019, Workers' compensation insurers have an obligation under the *Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act* to provide reasonable support services for workers who have lodged an application for compensation for a psychological or psychiatric injury. This includes secondary psychiatric components of an injury.

When does it apply?

This early intervention obligation starts when a worker lodges an application for compensation and ends on the day the insurer decides to allow or reject the application. If the application is accepted the intervention continues.

What is included?

There is no definition of what reasonable support services must be provided, but some examples are listed:

- counselling services
- mediation services
- medical treatment
- nursing, and
- medicines.

What is not included?

The Act is clear on what isn't to be funded, and that is hospitalisation and in-patient services.

How to you help your clients?

If you have any clients who make an application for workers' compensation for a psychological or psychiatric injury, it is important to ask the workers' compensation insurer to fund any reasonable services that are recommended by their GP or by you as their treatment provider. If you are having problems gaining the assistance of the insurer contact the client's GP and seek legal assistance for that client.

Contact details for Workcover

1300 362 128