# MOTOR ACCIDENT INJURIES SCHEME — QUARTERLY REPORT

# **KEY STATISTICS**

This report captures some key statistics for the MAI Scheme from the start of the scheme on 1 February 2020 through 30 September 2020 as well as statistics for the most recent quarter.

The MAI Commission's 2019-20 annual report will include additional applicant statistics. Future annual reports will also include additional statistics on WPI assessment outcomes.

The data shown is as reported to the MAI Commission by the four MAI licensed insurers (AAMI, APIA, GIO and NRMA) and the Nominal Defendant.

The Nominal Defendant is a statutory authority that manages applications by persons injured by unregistered vehicles without MAI insurance or by unidentified vehicles (e.g. hit and run accidents).

While it is too early to identify trends given the scheme has only been operating for eight months, we are closely monitoring the scheme.

# **APPLICATIONS LODGED**

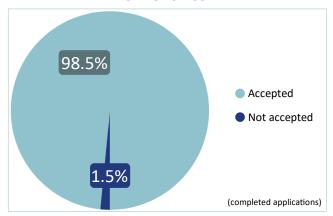
To Date	This Quarter	Status
196	103	Completed
25	25	In progress

An application is complete when all information is provided. Applications in progress are recorded to indicate applications for benefits where additional information is required and has been requested. Applications should be lodged within 13 weeks of a motor accident. Late applications can only be accepted with a full and satisfactory explanation for up to 2 years after the accident. The number of applications received to date is likely to have been affected by lower traffic volumes following the COVID-19 restrictions. It is expected to take some time for application numbers to reach maturity and for the community to fully engage with the new scheme.

# **APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED**

Anyone injured in a motor accident in the ACT on or after 1 February 2020 can make an application for personal injury benefits. If someone dies from injuries sustained in an accident a relevant person can make an application for funeral expenses and death benefits to support dependants.

### **APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED**



#### APPLICATIONS REJECTED BY REASON

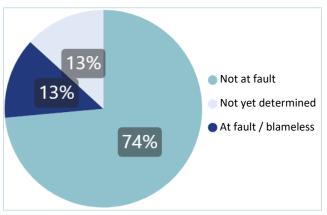
To Date	This Quarter	Reason
2	2	Claiming benefits through Workers Compensation
1	1	False or misleading claim

A person cannot receive benefits for an accident if it is also a workplace accident where the injured person has chosen to claim benefits from Workers Compensation. A defined benefit application may be declined where the insurer does not agree there was a motor accident or the injuries are not from a motor accident.

# **APPLICANT FAULT STATUS**

A benefit of the MAI Scheme being a no-fault scheme is that everyone injured in a motor vehicle accident can receive defined benefits. There is no longer a need to show that someone else was at fault for the accident.

#### **APPLICANT FAULT STATUS**



This determination does not affect the defined benefits available to an injured person. The categorisations are assigned by a MAI insurer initially on the information provided in an application. Insurers determine who was at fault in order to decide which insurer is liable for the defined benefits application.

**Not at fault** – where the person or vehicle was not responsible for the accident.

At fault/blameless — at fault is where the person or vehicle was responsible for the accident. A blameless accident is not caused by the fault of any person (e.g. medical incident) but is included with the at fault category as the driver is deemed at fault for the purpose of an application.

**Not yet determined** – inquiries are still being made as to the person or vehicle responsible for the accident.





# **TREATMENT & CARE**

The scheme pays for some early treatment and care expenses incurred by an injured person (pre-application and allowable expenses) while their application is being assessed, even if an insurer does not accept liability for an application. These expenses can be reimbursed to the applicant from when the insurer receives a complete application. For a late application, the insurer will make payments after the insurer accepts liability for the application. Other treatment and care expenses, including those directly billed by providers, are paid after liability for an application is accepted.

#### **FIRST TREATMENT & CARE PAYMENT**

Number of weeks after the date an insurer receives a complete application that the first treatment and care payment is made (by percentage of eligible applications).

#### Weeks until first treatment & care payment



11

Days (median) to first

Treatment & Care payment

The timing of payments is affected by when an insurer receives a reimbursement request from an injured person or when an invoice is received directly from a provider.

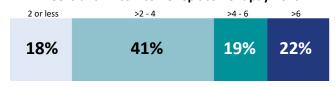
# **INCOME REPLACEMENT**

An injured person is entitled to income replacement payments, subject to certain limitations and exclusions, if they are at least 15 years old, and either in paid work, or capable of being in paid work on the date of the motor accident. Income replacement can be paid once an insurer accepts liability for an application. Insurers have up to 28 days to accept liability from the receipt of a complete application. In some cases, a request may not be made immediately as an injured person may take some time to provide information about their pay and work arrangements. Some may not need any days off work.

#### FIRST INCOME REPLACEMENT PAYMENT

Number of weeks after the date an insurer receives a complete application that the first income replacement payment is made (by percentage of eligible applications).

#### Weeks until first income replacement payment



26

Days (median) to first Income Replacement payment

Requested payments can be made only after liability has been accepted by the insurer.

# WHOLE PERSON IMPAIRMENT

Whole Person Impairment (WPI) is a medical assessment of a person who has an injury or injuries of a permanent nature. A person with WPI of 5% or greater is entitled to receive a Quality of Life defined benefit payment. A person with WPI of 10% or greater who was injured by someone else's fault in the accident may apply for common law compensation. To obtain a WPI, injured people may apply for an assessment from 26 weeks after their motor accident if their injuries have stabilised and are likely to be permanent.

To date, no Whole Person Impairment assessments have been requested.



# **DEFINED BENEFIT INFORMATION SERVICE**

The Defined Benefit Information Service (DBIS) is being delivered by CARE Inc and funded by the MAIC. The DBIS provides free information, advice and referral services to people on accessing the defined benefits available under the MAI Scheme. The DBIS can be contacted on 1300 209 642. The number of people currently accessing the service may be affected by COVID-19. There will be further promotion of the service by the MAIC once the current COVID-19 public health emergency has eased.

#### **DBIS SERVICES PROVIDED**

To date	This quarter	DBIS
66	32	Number of services provided*

\*If required, individuals may access repeat services from the DBIS.

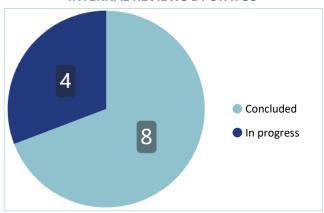




# **INTERNAL REVIEWS**

An injured person can dispute certain types of insurer decisions by asking for an internal review. An internal review of a decision is conducted by a person employed by the insurer not involved in making the original decision.

#### **INTERNAL REVIEWS BY STATUS**



#### INTERNAL REVIEWS BY CATEGORY AND OUTCOME

Category	In progress	Decision affirmed	Decision amended	Decision substituted
Treatment & Care	4	4	2	0
Income Replacement	0	0	0	1
Liability	0	1	0	0
Other Review Types	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Affirmed means no change to the insurer's decision. Amended means a change (ie. a payment calculation) and substituted means an insurer made a different decision.

n/a - no review of this type has occurred

# **EXTERNAL REVIEWS**

An injured person can also dispute certain types of insurer decisions, usually after an internal review has occurred, by asking for an external review. An external review of a decision is conducted by the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal. The MAI Act includes schedules of matters which are internally and/or externally reviewable decisions.

# **O External Reviews**

#### **EXTERNAL REVIEWS BY CATEGORY AND OUTCOME**

Category	Decision affirmed	Decision substituted
Treatment & Care	n/a	n/a
Income Replacement	n/a	n/a
Liability	n/a	n/a
WPI Final Offer / SOI	n/a	n/a
Other Review Types	n/a	n/a

n/a—no review of this type has occurred

WPI—Whole Person Impairment

SOI—Significant occupational impact

# **COMMON LAW**

Common law compensation under the MAI Scheme is available for people who were injured by someone else's fault in the accident and meet at least one threshold category:

- have a Whole Person Impairment (WPI) of at least 10 per cent, or
- is a child still receiving treatment and care benefits four years and six months after the accident, or
- is an adult still receiving income replacement benefits four years and six months after the accident and is assessed with a significant occupational impact (SOI).

The entitlement to defined benefits exists for five years, or until a common law claim is finalised (whichever occurs first). A common law claim must be made before the five years expires. To obtain a WPI, an injured person may apply for a WPI assessment from 26 weeks after their motor accident if their injuries have stabilised and are likely to be permanent (and they are not subject to an exception/exclusion).

To date, no common law claims have been lodged to the MAI Scheme for an injured person.



Percentage of Claims Finalised: N/A





# **PAYMENTS**

Defined benefits available to injured people include treatment and care, income replacement and Quality of Life. If someone dies from injuries sustained in an accident funeral expenses and death benefits to support dependants are available. Anyone whose injury was caused by someone else's fault and who is more seriously injured can access additional common law damages. Various other payments are also made by insurers under the Scheme such as insurer costs.

No payments have been made yet for some payment types. No Quality of Life applications or common law claims against the ACT Scheme have yet been made. Note: some payments may include amounts an ACT MAI insurer pays where they are the on-risk insurer for an interstate accident claim.

### **PAYMENTS TO DATE BY TYPE**

Payment Type	To Date	This Quarter
Treatment & Care Benefits (includes allowable expenses)	\$854,523	\$517,894
Income Replacement Benefits	\$624,932	\$365,139
Quality of Life Benefits	n/a	n/a
Funeral Benefits	\$0	\$0
Death Benefits	\$0	\$0
Applicant External Review Legal Costs Awarded	\$0	\$0
Common Law - Treatment & Care Damages	n/a	n/a
Common Law - Economic Damages	n/a	n/a
Common Law - Quality of Life Damages	n/a	n/a
Common Law - Plaintiff Legal Costs	n/a	n/a
Insurer Investigation	\$67,639	\$31,714
Insurer Legal	\$7,068	\$3,910
Insurer Medico Legal (includes the cost of WPI assessments)	\$843	\$0
Recoveries	\$2,283	\$2,283
Other	\$0	\$0
Total	\$1,557,288	\$920,940

#### **PAYMENTS TO DATE BY TYPE**

