ACT Citizens’ Jury Witness Workshop

Theme 3:
For what benefits are people covered?

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Background

• **Who am I?**
  – Work as medical specialist (in Rehabilitation Medicine)
  – Work in research and education at the University of Sydney
  – With colleagues have investigated recovery after motor vehicle crashes
  – Have evaluated CTP schemes in New South Wales
  – Have made submissions, with colleagues, about changes to the CTP scheme in New South Wales

• **Competing interests**
  – I am paid to provide medical consultations, and resolve disputes, for people injured in motor vehicle crashes
  – The John Walsh Centre for Rehabilitation Research receives funding from the NSW CTP scheme regulator
CTP Scheme Objectives

- To assist people to recover from injuries sustained in motor vehicle crashes
- To assist people return to a normal life, including working if appropriate
- To provide greater assistance to people with more severe injuries
- To minimise psychological distress
Can science assist?

Aim of compensation process is ..
...to cover medical costs, rehabilitation & loss of income after an accident

In other words...
To improve the injured persons’ health and recovery

However......
What is the evidence?

Injured people who claim compensation have **poorer recovery** than those who do not claim.
What are the theories?

Secondary gain

What the world thinks....

Secondary victimisation

What research suggests....
What should help?

• A scheme that encourages early treatment and appropriate treatment, as necessary
• A scheme that is focussed on recovery
• A scheme that does not increase psychological distress
• Recognition that some people will recover well, while others will have difficulty recovering and they can be recognised, and helped, at an early stage
Questions on peoples’ minds

• Comparison with other states
• What is happening in NSW?

• What helps recovery?
• What hinders recovery?
• How many people don’t get back to a normal life?
• How many people don’t get back to work?