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

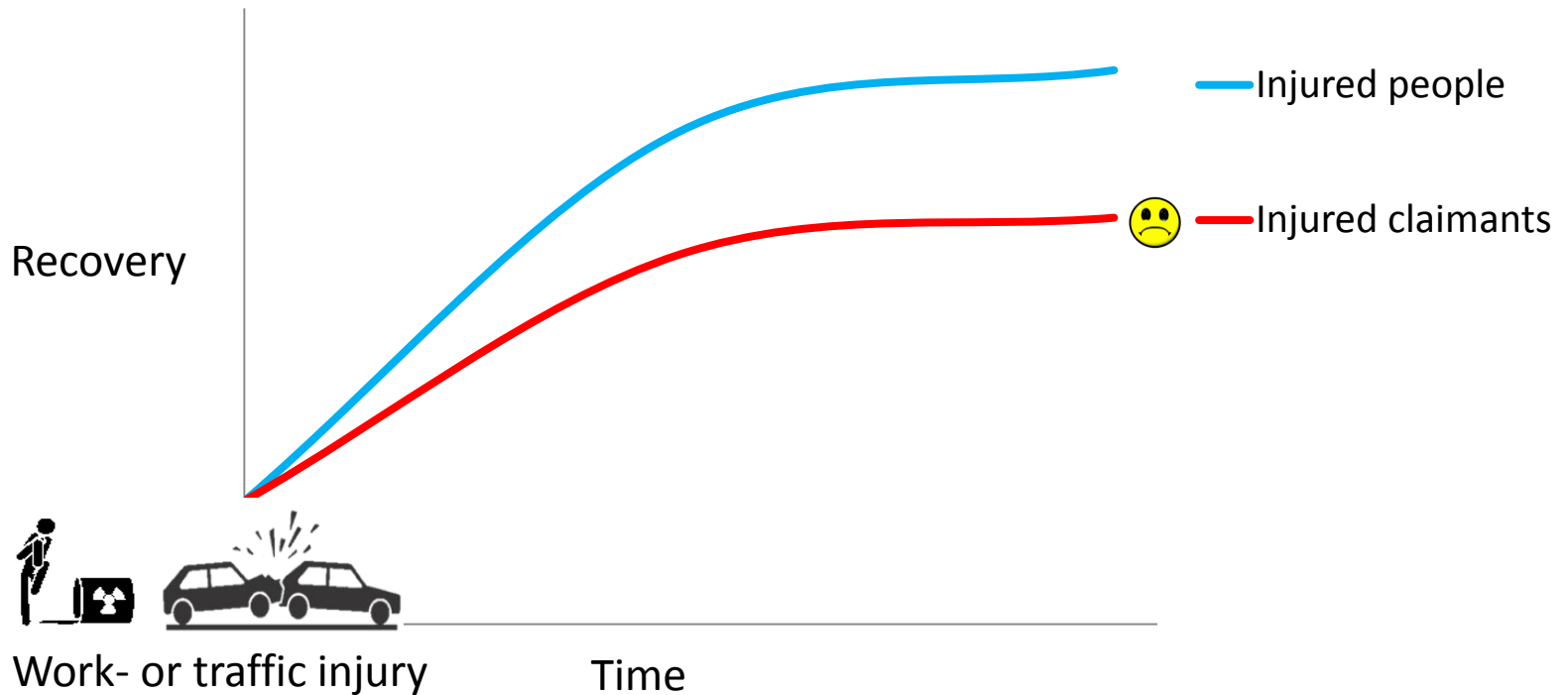# Can science assist?

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

Secondary victimisation

What the world thinks....

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?