

## ASIEQ General Members Meeting

<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday 17 November 2021
<b>Time:</b>	9.30am – 10.25am
<b>Location:</b>	Via Zoom
<b>Attendees:</b>	Appendix 1
<b>Apologies:</b>	Bill Nevin (Glencore), Helen Creagh (EML)

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### Acknowledgement to Country

Cara Williams began by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land on which we met. The meeting was held via Zoom and she was in Brisbane which is a contested space, so she paid respects to both the Jagera people and the Turrbul people and their Elders, past, present and emerging. Cara asked everyone to take a minute to think about the traditional owners of the land on which they stand.

### Welcome

Cara welcomed members to the November 2021 ASIEQ meeting. Cara apologised that we were not meeting face to face but due to the current Covid cases, ASIEQ decided it was safer to have the meeting virtually.

### Review of the previous Minutes

The minutes from the previous General Meeting on 18 August 2021 were circulated after that meeting.

*Clodagh McCowen moved a motion to accept the minutes of the meeting as a true and correct record. Seconded by Louisa Hackenberg. None Opposed. Motion Passed.*

## Correspondence

Correspondence Log					
Date	Incoming	Outgoing	Method	Sender	Subject
30/07/2021	✓		Email	Bill Nevin	Statutory Claims Officer Training and Cert Course
13/07/2021	✓		Email	Westpac	Query re QOTE. Response sent 21 July
2/07/2021	✓		Email	WorkCover Qld	Surgical Guidelines update
28/06/2021		✓	Email	Louisa Hackeberg	Request for information on guidance notes for 572a. Response rcd on 6 July
24/06/2021	✓		Email	Suzi D'Andrea	Assoc member application
14/06/2021	✓		Email	WCRS	Information on Self Insurance Levy
14/06/2021	✓		Email	Jobfit Systems	Assoc member application
7/06/2021		✓	Email	Sofitel	Signed contract for 2021 conference
6/06/2021	✓		Email	Bill Nevin	CC'd on email to WCRS re request for Rehab policy template
4/06/2021	✓		Email	Justin Crowley	Notification of MAV ruling in Vic Contract for the 2022
2/06/2021	✓		Email	Sofitel	Conference
1/06/2021	✓		Email	Bill Nevin	Suggestions to WCRS re data specifications
31/05/2021		✓	Email	Louisa Hackeberg	Email to WCRS re doc links to WCQ info. Action item from WCRS mtg
26/05/2021	✓		Email	WCRS, Kelly Amos	Information re MAT portal re single medical certificates
24/05/2021	✓		Email	Bill Nevin	CC'd on email to Craig Allen re self insurance levy rate
24/05/2021	✓		Email	WCRS, Rob Sinnamon	Updated Audit process guide and spreadsheet tool received
21/05/2021	✓		Email	Bill Nevin	cc'd on email to WCRS re Self Insurance levy rates
19/05/2021	✓		Email	Bill Nevin	CC'd on email to WCRS re Audit Tool document versions

Cara noted the correspondence above. No questions were raised. Louisa commented that the correspondence has been listed in the agenda and minutes. If members wished to read any of this correspondence in full, they can contact the Secretariat for a copy.

## Treasurers Report

Victoria Barham gave the Treasurer's report.

- Bank Balance as of 31 October 2021 - \$203 259
- Outgoings for October were \$5 458
- The Annual Audit and Annual Tax return have been completed
- New budget for 2021/22 has been endorsed

Victoria also noted that 93% of membership subscriptions have been received.

## Presidents Update

Clodagh advised that we had our AGM on 27 October 2021 and our new committee was formed. The Committee is:

Clodagh McCowen – President  
Trent Rickard (Teyes) – Vice President  
Cara Williams (Bolton Clarke) - Secretary  
Victoria Barham (Star) - Treasurer  
Paul Bush (Qantas) – Committee  
Matt Cross (Big W) - Committee

Clodagh welcomed the new committee.

The dates have now been sent for 2022 meetings and forums and these are available on our website.

Clodagh thanked BarryNillson and MinterEllison for their support during 2021, providing venues for meetings and forums.

On 15 October we held our first Zoom Drop in session for members. This is the first session that was very well received. We have now set another one for 2 December. You must be a member to attend and you can RSVP to the Secretariat. The next session discussed Complex Claims and IME wait times. Any suggestions for future topics can go through to the Secretariat. It's a confidential opportunity to talk with others who possibly have the same issues.

The Christmas function is coming up on the 9 December.

Clodagh raised the issue of Covid vaccinations that are becoming mandated for workers if they are attending IME and other appointments. A number of medicolegal organisations have published their Covid policies regarding what is required for employees to attend an IME. Clodagh noted that Shifts have been extended by 15 minutes to allow for rapid antigen testing which will have implications on NWE Calculations going forward. Clodagh also asked about the Rapid Antigen tests and whether this has a positive implication of mitigating Covid in the workplace.

WorkCover Queensland have reached out to Clodagh to ask how they are managing Covid claims in the workplace given that in some states, they have presumptive legislation. She will share any learnings out of this with the group in the future. There have been approx. 25 accepted claims so far in Queensland. A question has been raised about who pays for the hospital costs. Some employees have had to isolate outside the households due to only one bathroom etc and again it will be interesting to see where these costs are covered. Long Covid is also a potential issue. Another question is how do you cover a journey claim if a worker can prove they caught Covid on a bus on the way to work.

Clodagh asked WCRS for guidance on weekly benefits where there is likely to be a mandate to be vaccinated but they have chosen not to or cannot be vaccinated which is impacting on suitable duties – where does this leave the employer? Will we need to pay full weekly compensation? Clodagh has also asked if the MAT will be putting out a Covid policy. It might be something that you want to consider with your templates when advising about IME appointments. Will a refusal to vaccinate, without a medical exemption, be seen as a failure to mitigate loss. This will be an interesting space to watch in the future.

Clodagh went through the WCRS minutes from the meeting on 25 October 2022

## **2022 ASIEQ Conference**

Work continues on the ASIEQ Conference for 2022. The Pivoting and Progressing Conference will be held at the Brisbane Sofitel on 9 and 10 March 2022. The Conference is a multidisciplinary event exploring the unique and ground breaking ways organisations have pivoted to not just survive, but progress in these strange times. We have seen amazing leaps which in normal times may have taken years to implement, being made in a matter of weeks. How have these changes affected the way in which workers' compensation is managed and what will we continue to improve in the future now that we are on this new path?

Registrations are open and you can secure early bird tickets now and sponsorship opportunities are also available. We are pleased to announce that we already have three members who have bought a table sponsorship and these are Glencore, Teys and JBS. I would like to thank these members for their support and encourage others to get on board. We are also pleased that Jobfit Systems International have joined as a Bronze Sponsor and will have a trade booth at the conference. Lime Medico legal are also going to have a booth. Again, thanks to these organisations for their support. Members are encourage to visit the website for more information on sponsorship.

We are working hard to pull an exciting program together which will be released in the not too distant future. The conference committee and ASIEQ Executive have made the decision that should these dates be effected by Covid, we will be postponing the event as we feel it's important to give members and opportunity to meet face to face rather than trying to convert the conference to something online. So when you book, you can have some assurance that it will remain as a face to face event.

If you'd like more information, visit the [ASIEQ website](#) or look for the link in your email communications. If you have suggestions of topics or speakers you'd like us to include, feel free to email those to our Secretariat.

## Sub Committee Reports

### National Certificate of Capacity

Michelle Ware gave an update advising the focus is on the principles on the role of the GP in supporting work participation. The June workshop saw 37 people come together from various systems, sectors and services to have a national conversation and debate on creating a system that genuinely works towards work participation. Comcare will consider the feedback received and develop a series of initiatives from the workshop(s) and a planned approach to implementation which Comcare will share back with the group.

HWCA National Capacity Certificate working group update, next meeting has been moved to Sept due to delays in finalising the contract with the preferred provider for the Proof of Concept pilot.

### RIG

Michelle Ware gave the RIG report. Medicinal Marijuana (MM) Continuing to see requests for funding (MM) across CTP and NISSQ. Reduction in opioids in the main reason to consider funding. NISSQ has some good results in this space.

MAIC have signed an agreement with the Emergency Medicine Foundation providing funds to help research into best emergency care for trauma patients in regional, rural and remote Qld. The research will also identify key barriers to optimal emergency care for patients and how to overcome those identified barriers. This partnership will help build research capacity for trauma and emergency healthcare clinicians in regional, rural and remote Qld.

### Digital Innovation Project update

Online rehabilitation/reimbursement requests and online treatment plans will 'go live' from the 9th of June 2021. Online CTP medical certificates will also 'go live' from the 9th of June 2021. This will mean that the CTP medical certificate will appear in GP software from this date. MAIC will continue to support new online forms and welcomes feedback.

### Claims dealing with First Nations People

Medilaw can assist with IMEs in an Indigenous rural community, Medilaw has an indigenous consultant, Barbara O'Neill contact details (see appendix 2). NISSQ work with First Peoples Disability Network (FPDN) and have found them to be a useful resource.

### Upcoming conferences/Webinars

University of Queensland injury recovery centre - RECOVER Conference 7th October 2021. Learn about RECOVER's latest research in road traffic injury rehabilitation, pain management and digital technologies. Registrations opening soon. Contact [recover@uq.edu.au](mailto:recover@uq.edu.au) for more information

[Trauma 2021](#) 10-12 September 2021. Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre.

Webinar – Rehabilitation and persistent pain management 24<sup>th</sup> August 1:45pm to 3:15pm

### Private Hospital Table of Costs

Cara Williams advised there isn't too much to update at present. WorkCover Queensland proposed a private hospital table of costs to be implemented this year. Late last year a draft was circulated and open for comment which was returned and some of the suggestions were taken on board however they may not be included in the first version. A second round of comments was open recently but as this has only just closed, no updates have been forthcoming. It's expected to be published on 1 November for implementation from 1 December 2021. This will be valid for all Workcover and Self Insurers. There will be some caps on items such as prosthetic handling fees and prices will be the same for rural hospitals as well as metro hospitals which hopefully will give more consistency and transparency.

## General Business

### Annual General Meeting

Louisa advised that the Annual General Meeting was scheduled for Friday 29 October however this date is now the rescheduled Ekka public holiday. As such, ASIEQ will be bringing the meeting forward to Wednesday 27 October at 3pm. A decision will be made closer to the date as to whether the format will be face to face or virtual.

Louisa encouraged members to consider joining the ASIEQ Executive Committee. Nominations will be circulated in early October. She encouraged anyone interested to chat with an existing committee member or the Secretariat.

### UQ Legal

Kate Thurbon from the University of Queensland updated the members on a right to information application that she brought to obtain documents relating to the "Pilot Program" in relation to OIR auditing self-insurers with the Draft Audit Framework. Initially OIR said that the request was too broad on the basis that they were after documents on the audit framework itself (which they were not after). They narrowed the request down to just the documents relating to the development of the "Pilot Program" or any document that referred to a "Pilot Program". No documents were disclosed – meaning they don't exist, confirming that a pilot program does not exist.

UQ also successfully challenged the Review Unit for not affording UQ procedural fairness with new medical evidence. The Review Unit was invited to reconsider its decision, was served with a draft Supreme Court Judicial Review application and again invited to reconsider its decision. It again refused to change its decision. UQ was successful in the application and received \$17k in legal costs from OIR. Kate is currently tracking 1 person's decisions in the Review Unit and if they are successful on an appeal that they have currently in the Commission, they intend having a meeting with OIR on the basis that this person doesn't have the skill or experience to be making decisions. Another member noted that a decision from a GP was taken over a specialist. Decisions are taking quite a while to be made. To commercially challenge a case in the QRIC, takes several years and is quite costly.

Another issue is that the Review Unit have used a generic email address for the Self Insurer and it can easily be missed. Under the audit tool, there is only two days to release the decision to the worker. Discussion was held over whether the day the information received is day 0 or day 1 however under the Act interpretation act, it should be day 0.

It was further discussed that where the decision is upheld, it seems unnecessary to advise the worker adverse information when they are being informed by the Regulator as receiving multiple letters

could cause unintended stress. It goes against the Section 545 – 1b and 2b. Teys is currently challenging this information as part of their mid term audit and awaiting information from the Regulator.

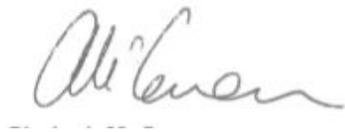
ASIEQ has been informed that on the 12 month anniversary of the Audit, further consultation will be held and these are issues that should be raised. This will also be raised at the next ASIEQ meeting with the WCRS. Members were reminded to submit any issues they would like raised and this can be done anonymously.

### **Professional Development Event**

Louisa encouraged all members to attend the Recovre's Pain Program: Resolve, by Amelio Health session next Wednesday 25 August at 9.30am. Registrations can be made via the Secretariat.

### **Next Meeting**

The next General meeting and forum will be held on Wednesday 17 November and a decision will be made closer to the time as to whether it will be face to face, virtual or both. The AGM dates had been tabled above.



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Clodagh McCowen  
President  
16 February 2022

## Appendix 1 – Meeting Attendees

Michelle	Ware	Allianz
Trinity	McKenzie	Arnotts Biscuits Limited
Danielle	Bolton	ASIEQ
Stephanie	Naidoo	Aurizon
Cara	Williams	Bolton Clarke
Katerina	Glassock	Brisbane City Council
David	Gomulka	Brisbane City Council
Kylie	Howard	Brisbane City Council
Andrew	Murrell	Brisbane City Council
Kelly	Tucker	Brisbane City Council
Jamie-Lee	Crawford	Coles Group
Clodagh	McCowen	Coles Group
Tania	Perina	CSR Limited
Malou	Tavita	CSR Limited
Colette	Nancarrow	GFG Alliance (Liberty OneSteel)
Rosemary	Neal	GFG Alliance (Liberty OneSteel)
Natasha	Iselin	Glencore
Karen	Wilson	Inghams Enterprises Pty Ltd
Dean	Campbell	Jardine Lloyd Thompson (JLT)
Megan	White	JBS
Susan	Lloyd	JBS Australia
		Local Government Association
Rachael	Lindsay	Queensland
Paul	Bush	Qantas Airways Limited
Jodie	Singarella	Qantas Airways Limited
Carlie	Faint	Queensland Rail Limited
Suzanne	Forsyth	Queensland Rail Limited
Louisa	Hackenberg	Queensland Rail Limited
Michael	Byrne	Recovery Partners
Karen	McLoughlin	Star
Sarah	Reynolds	Teys Australia Meat Group Pty Ltd
Trent	Rickard	Teys Australia Meat Group Pty Ltd
Victoria	Barham	The Star Entertainment Group
Justin	Crowley	Toll Group
Louise	Grant	Townsville City Council
Christine	Judge	Townsville City Council
Lesley	Dame	Tricare
Jodie	Longden	Tricare
Deb	Allen	University of Queensland
Kate	Thurbon	University of Queensland
Suzanne	D'Andrea	Vocational Redirection
Tim	Elvery	Work Rehab