



What's included

- Workshop update
- CEO Report
- Medical CPD and support groups
- Media

CEO Report

2024 has seen significant ebbs and flows in the concussion world, including to Concussion Australia's operations. We continue to undertake our core work where we able to, and have run several workshops for local communities. We have expanded our education portfolio, which now includes a first class medical CPD for general practitioners and emergency doctors (delivered by our medical advisory committee).

Politically, concussion remains very hot. On the one hand, we have met with many State Ministers for Sport (and other portfolios) across Australia and they know how crucial it is that they act in this area. Some are interested, some are not. Commonwealth Minister for Sport, Anika Wells MP has not responded to the Senate Inquiry into Concussion in Sport, and this is now sitting at over 10 months since the report was released. The Federal Government needs to urgently respond to the Inquiry and take the lead in responding and rolling out proper nationwide response action.

From the State perspective, the NSW Labor Government has led the charge in the combat sports sector, and they have now made it (legislatively) mandatory for combat sports athletes to receive concussion education, which extends to coaches and other key personnel. This same logic should be applied to other at risk sports.

From the legal side, the two AFL class actions have merged into one. Margalit Injury Lawyers has taken carriage of the class that were prior clients of Griffin Lawyers, and World Rugby's class action continues. The Judge with conduct of the World Rugby class action has also recently commented on how slow the parties have been disclosing information to one another.

At the community level, we have now seen the AFL roll out a 21 day minimum out period following a concussion. This is a move in the right direction, and takes us back to the first concussion guidelines that were released in the 1990s; suffice to say, the sporting bodies have in many cases gone backwards. The AIS has also released it's most recent position statement, and this is quite comprehensive, also advocating a 21 day minimum out period.

It has been incredibly encouraging to see individual grassroots' clubs wanting us to attend their club to run workshops. One workshop occurred in May 2024, and another two will be occurring in July 2024. What is becoming more stark though is that each Government is aware that they are the only solution to solving this problem and the more that government delays action, the worse this situation becomes.

Workshops in Brisbane and Canberra

Concussion Australia has run several workshops this year, with both Dr Robert Reid and Brendan Swan facilitating workshops in Canberra and Brisbane. Every rugby league, rugby union and Australian rules football club in those areas was invited to attend. The Canberra workshop saw on or around 15 clubs register, while the Brisbane workshop saw on or around 3 clubs attend. The ACT Government chose to advertise the session for us, and we thank their progressive approach on this front. Every person who attended both workshops marked their pre and post workshop surveys as:

- Feeling more prepared to deal with concussion after attendance;
- Most never prior being supplied with concussion education;
- Increased education levels on every item.

ForHealth Group Medical CPD

Concussion Australia has now developed a medical education module about concussion (and its diagnosis and management) for general practitioners and emergency doctors. In May 2024 our medical advisory committee led a workshop for GPs at the ForHealth Group, which spans somewhere around 1200 GPs. Our medical advisory committee collectively put this CPD together, and with contributions from all members of the advisory committee, the CPD touches on everything from physiology, neurology, rehabilitation, diagnosis, management to pharmaceutical prescription. If any GP clinics or otherwise that would like to learn about concussion from the best experts in the country (1 hour session), then please reach out to us.

Concussion Education Workshop at the Raiders Club, Belconnen for the West Belconnen Warriors

In June 2024, Concussion Australia ran a concussion education workshop for the entire club of the West Belconnen Warriors. Concussion Australia congratulates the club on its progressive approach to dealing with this continuing and emerging problem, and with on or around 50 attendees, we know that each of those people are better placed to deal with concussion. If your club wants a concussion education seminar, then we can assist both in person and or online.

Next online support group

Concussion Australia's online support groups for the rest of the year are as follows:

- Thursday 5 August 2024 from 6:00PM - 7:00PM (AEST). You can register for that one [here](#).
- Thursday 12 September 2024 from 6:00PM - 7:00PM (AEST). You can register for that one [here](#).
- Once daylight savings hits we will publish further support groups.

Media in the last 6 months

- In February 2024 we joined the man Dave Marchese to talk about the AIS Guidelines, and you can listen to that [here](#).
- In March 2024 we joined Jeremy Jones from ABC Radio Capricornia to talk about concussion in the grassroots, and you can listen to that [here](#).
- In June 2024 we again joined Jeremy Jones from ABC Radio Capricornia to talk about the law and politics of concussion, and you can listen to that [here](#).

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