

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, January - March 2023



CONCUSSION
AUSTRALIA

What's included

- Senate Inquiry: Concussion Australia gave evidence alongside other concussion experts
- Five education workshops
- Three monthly online support groups, and uptake is growing
- Media: Concussion Australia featured on the ABC, Ten, the ABC news app, and the Age



Brendan Swan, CEO of Concussion Australia (left), gave evidence to the Senate Inquiry alongside specialists Dr Tim Butson (Member, Concussion Australia Medical Advisory Committee) and Dr Benjamin Chen (right)

Senate Inquiry into Concussion

Concussion Australia's CEO Brendan Swan gave evidence to the Senate Inquiry into concussion and repeated head trauma in contact sports on 22 February 2023 in Brisbane. Concussion Australia discussed a range of issues including the lack of available concussion education, legal liability, lack of data, and under-reporting.

The Inquiry is focusing on a variety of issues such as concussion guidelines and practices in contact sports, the long term impacts of concussions and repeated head trauma, available support, the lack of a consistent definition of concussion, and the prevalence of concussion.

The Inquiry has also heard from a range of legal and medical professionals, including Professor Karen Barlow (Neurologist) who is on Concussion Australia's Medical Advisory Committee. Sporting and other organisations have given evidence, with the next hearing taking place in Melbourne on 26 April 2023.

The report is due to be released by 21 June 2023. Concussion Australia hopes that it will provide pragmatic recommendations to improve concussion management and education across Australia.

A copy of Concussions Australia's submission can be found [here](#).



Concussion Education Workshops

Concussion Australia's first concussion education workshop took place on 16 January 2023 at the South Tweed Sports Club.

This was a great trial for our team and we received excellent reviews from all of the clubs and organisations that attended.

Swiftly following was a workshop in Burleigh Heads on 22 January 2023, which was similarly attended by some Gold Coast NRL and AFL clubs.

In February, our team made off to Canberra, and on 25 February 2023 we were joined for a very engaging session by a number of Canberra NRL and AFL clubs. The final workshop in this quarter was on 25 March 2023 in Brisbane, with AFL Queensland, Queensland Rugby League and several other local clubs attending.

In December 2022, we also presented a CLE (continuing legal education) to the personal injury team at Evolve Legal. We went through where concussion and the law is up to, and assisted their solicitors to better understand concussion in both a medical and legal context.

The feedback Concussion Australia has received from the participants at all of our workshops so far has been very positive, and several have expressed interest in arranging parents' information evenings. We are currently arranging at least one large scale information evening with a club in Brisbane.

We look forward to working further with local clubs and law firms in the future, and we are hopeful that participation at our workshops will continue to grow over time.

The preliminary data we are seeing from our anonymous surveys at all of our workshops is very interesting. So far education levels have significantly increased pre and post workshop, and we will continue to collect this important data about the numbers and causes of concussion from all participants at our workshops.

Note: If your club, organisation, or law firm is interested in (or looking for) an affordable concussion education workshop or a CLE on concussion and the law (as well as supporting a charity), then please do not hesitate to contact us to see what we can do for you and your team.

"Your presentation was insightful"

Support Groups



Concussion Australia hosts a monthly online support group for people and their families struggling with concussion. The group is currently being facilitated by CA Director Hayden Say, who suffered a brain bleed when he was 17-years-old playing cricket. Hayden is now an Exercise Physiologist who primarily works with DVA clients outside of his Concussion Australia work.

The group provides a safe and understanding space for individuals to share their stories of concussion and discuss the impact it has had on their lives. Register for our next support group at www.concussionaus.com.au.

Articles and Media

Concussion Australia was pleased to be featured in several recent news articles including on the ABC, Channel 10 and in The Herald Sun.

We also provided comments for the Age and NewsCorp network in their article relating to concussion detection mouth guards.

We were then invited to speak on the Triple J news podcast, Hack on triple j, in relation to the Concussion class action launched against the AFL. We also spoke to Katherine Gregory on ABC Radio National to discuss the NRL's 11 day stand down period and its implications for the grassroots.

- ABC Radio National: (3:20-4:00): click [here](#)
- Hack on triple j: (13:30 - 19:30): click [here](#)

Senate concussion inquiry told NRL, AFL 'more concerned with legal liability than player health'

By Jake Lapham

Posted Wed 22 Feb 2023 at 7:12pm, updated Wed 22 Feb 2023 at 7:12pm



Brendan Swan, CEO of Concussion Australia, said the group had reached out to the AFL and NRL to discuss concussions protocols, but had not heard back. (ABC News)

- ABC News Article (above): click [here](#)
- Herald Sun: click [here](#)

If you are writing an article about concussion, then please don't hesitate to reach out to our team for a comment.

Medical Advisory Committee News



Concussion Australia is thrilled to announce that Dr Tim Butson has agreed to join our Medical Advisory Committee.

Dr Butson is a Rehabilitation Medicine Physician based on the Sunshine Coast. He holds an MBBS, a Diploma of Sports and Exercise Medicine and a Masters of Sports Medicine from the University of Melbourne. Dr Butson spoke alongside our CEO at the Senate Inquiry and has a special interest in concussion.

We are looking forward to working with Dr Butson on our team!

"Bringing Unity to Concussion in Sport"