



What's included

- Senate Inquiry Report
- QLS Personal Injuries Conference Panel
- Concussion education workshop at Banora Point High School
- MOU with Brain Injuries Australia
- People we have helped

Senate Inquiry report

On 5 September 2023, the Senate Inquiry into Concussion and Repeated Head Trauma in Contact Sport handed down its final report. We welcome the recommendations, though we acknowledge that this is only the first step, and there is much work to do from here.

The solutions to this crisis are not necessarily complicated, though it will require effort and political will from governments across Australia to lead the way (or to provide funding for others in the field to do so) in solving these issues.

From our perspective, comprehensive (and face to face) concussion education is one of the ways forward to ensuring we have a concussion literate community, which will give at risk communities (among others) the best chance at properly managing acute concussion and at preventing poor outcomes.

We acknowledge that ongoing research is necessary, though every piece of available money is going to research, and not a single dollar is going to grassroots concussion education. This needs to urgently change.

At its core, this Senate Inquiry report is giving Australia the chance to unite and turn over a dark leaf; to balance the scales. We implore governments across Australia to be pragmatic and brave -- Concussion Australia is in your corner, and we know that we have the necessary expertise and experience to assist with the rollout of the recommendations.

This message is not just targeted at governments, but remains true for all organisations and people operating in this area: work with each other, not against each other. For as long as spears are being thrown, it is the community that suffers. Concussion Australia will release an official response in the coming weeks.

Take a listen and watch all of our media [here](#) (ABC RN with Andy Park, ABC Radio Brisbane with Craig and Loretta, ABC News Radio, and ABC Radio Regional Queensland).



RN DRIVE →

Could a national strategy reduce concussion severity?

Broadcast Wed 6 Sep 2023 at 5:06pm

GUEST:

Brendan Swan, CEO of Concussion Australia

Credits

- Kimberley Price, Producer
- Eleni Psaltis, Producer

■ After years of campaigning from health advocates and athletes, Australian sport is making serious moves to try address its concussion problem. A Senate inquiry has laid out the blueprint for better head knock management, suggesting strict return-to-play rules as well as calling for more data and research. The recommendations are being widely welcomed, but [there are questions from those involved in grassroots sport across the country about how mammoth a task it will be to make changes at the amateur level.](#) Guest/Audio: Monty Jacka (ABC Riverina), Leigh McDonald (footy player), Nigel Plum (rugby player), Brendan Swan (Chief Executive of Concussions Australia).

Queensland Law Society Annual Personal Injuries Conference

On 15 September 2023 Concussion Australia attended and facilitated a panel on The Concussion Ecosystem at the QLS Annual PI Conference. Lawyers play a huge role in this crisis, and we were very pleased to be able to provide legal and medical education for those in attendance. Importantly, every single lawyer who completed our workshop survey felt more prepared to represent or defend concussion and related injuries claims.

We thank Dr Tim Butson (TBI Rehabilitation Physician and CA Medical Advisory Committee Member), Amanda Gilmour (Special Counsel, Shine Lawyers Head Trauma Unit and CA Company Secretary), Greg Griffin (Principal, Griffins Lawyers and managing principal for one of the AFL class actions) and Brendan Swan (CEO and solicitor) for providing their expertise and knowledge.

If your law firm is looking for comprehensive medical and legal education about concussion, then please email hello@concussionaus.com.au to arrange an in-house CPD session where we take you through the medicine, law, experts, pleadings, and otherwise.

Hanna Barclay (National Medicolegal Assessments): "The session on 'The Concussion Ecosystem was a stand out for us with Dr Tim Butson, Amanda Gilmour, Greg Griffin and Brendan Swan (Concussion Australia Ltd)."

MOU with Brain Injuries Australia

Concussion Australia was pleased to recently sign an MOU with Brain Injuries Australia. Nick Rushworth and his team have been fabulous to deal with, and have been committed to multiple brain injury for a long time. With our cumulative expertise, we look forward to developing a prosperous relationship that the community benefits from.

Concussion Education Workshop at Banora Point High School

On 28 August 2023 Concussion Australia attended and ran a concussion education workshop for all of the teachers at Banora Point High School. Some of the feedback included:

- 34/36 survey participants felt more prepared to deal with concussion after the workshop;
- 6/36 teachers had been provided with concussion education before, and each of those 6 teachers felt more prepared to deal with concussion in the future (after our workshop);
- Out of 36 teachers, teachers thought that they collectively had 52 concussions, and only 9 of those 52 suspected concussions had been assessed by a doctor or at a hospital.
- 10% of participants (3) recorded that they thought they had 6+ concussions.

The verbal feedback was excellent -- we thank Paul Michael (Chair, CA Medical Advisory Committee) and Isha Cave (volunteer) for running the session. Concussion Australia looks forward to future workshops at schools, with our next one scheduled for 30 October 2023 at Robina State High School.

Some people we have helped in the last three months

Concussion Australia often receives calls and emails from people seeking our assistance. These last few months some of those people included:

- 18 yo concussed from work: we were contacted by Jane's (pseudonym) mother seeking our assistance. We provided referrals to proper medical care with various clinicians across Australia, and an empathetic sounding board for Jane and her mother.
- 10 yo concussion from school: we were contacted by Anne's (pseudonym) mother seeking assistance for her daughter who had a concussion at school. Now months down the track, Anne has been referred for proper medical care, and has been supported in other ways by our team.
- Year 6 student from Tasmania: we were contacted by a year 6 student (after the Senate Inquiry) who wanted to do a research project on concussion. We scheduled a video call, and James (pseudonym) was well on his way to understanding concussion.



Paul Michael presenting to the teachers at Banora Point High School

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