

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

22 January 2026



CONCUSSION
AUSTRALIA

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- Chief Executive Officer Report
- Brief workshop statistics
- Commitment from Queensland Opposition (ALP) to developing concussion strategy
- Events for 2026

Chief Executive Officer Report

At this time last year, I wrote to each Federal, State and Territory Minister for Health, Education and Sport (and their shadow equivalents) to outline our view of the Federal Government's response to the Senate Inquiry report into concussion. You can read that response in a previous newsletter [here](#).

Since that time, the Federal and State Governments have all refused to do anything to improve concussion education, awareness, policy, and have refused to tackle any issues relating to legal and insurer liability arising from head injuries or sporting injuries more generally. Each of those governments know that we will work with them to improve the concussion ecosystem, but for the time being, government does not have any desire to be proactive in relation to concussion and it is clear that the sporting bodies continue to exert a powerful influence over government. A similar issue exists in relation to gambling advertising – the Federal Government has refused to place any fetter on gambling advertising or introduce regulation in gambling – it is the sporting bodies who have lobbied the government in relation to gambling; concussion is a virtually identical issue in this regard.

Earlier this year, we identified a large amount of incorrect medical information arising from various Queensland Government official information that was publicly available both on its website, social media and officials concussion education material. Some of this information included:

- “children should only commence activities once they are symptom free”;
- “[children may have] symptoms for up to three months post injury”;
- “concussion causes short lived neurological impairment”
- “concussion is a disturbance to the brain's function rather than physical structure”
- “concussion is best managed with physical and cognitive rest”
- “children are told not return to sport or school until they are symptom free”

Most of the above material is decades out of date and that was (at least at that time) being publicised to millions of Queenslanders. I wrote to the Minister and informed him that the government's official information was incorrect as well as identifying that Queensland's representative school sport concussion guidelines remain in draft form (and have been for 3 years). We are yet to receive any written response to that correspondence.

Other than those matters, we held four educational workshops in 2025 – those included workshops in Canberra, Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast. We also held 6 online support groups (bi-monthly) with varying attendances. I regularly take phone calls from the community when they need assistance managing their concussion/s, and I refer them to appropriate medical practitioners for diagnosis and management.

The greatest achievement that I personally had this year relating to concussion was the insertion into the Queensland Labor Party's Policy Platform a commitment to develop a concussion strategy when it comes to office. I did this in my personal name as a member of the Labor Party; I did this because both the Federal and State Governments have refused to do anything as it relates to concussion. That commitment in the platform is:

Labor will develop a comprehensive concussion strategy to better educate and protect the community, young people and sporting participants from concussion and related injuries. The strategy will be developed in consultation with relevant unions and stakeholder organisations and explicitly cover concussion education, legal liability and concussion policy. The strategy will identify and prescribe practical support for first responders including teachers, health practitioners and sports club officials.

Additional to the above was a commitment to regulate combat sports (kickboxing, boxing, etc) in Queensland. This will bring Queensland into line with every other State and will provide (if Labor forms government) a comprehensive safety framework for combatants in Queensland.

The process of policy in the Labor Party involves going through the rank and file (branch members) at large policy forums, and motions then proceed to the policy council. If passed, they then proceed to Labor's State Conference where amendments are voted on by hundreds of union, rank and file delegates, as well as members of parliament. When moving the above motion through the Labor Party, I met with a range of members of parliament, spoke to hundreds of people at various policy forums across Queensland, spoke to the Shadow Minister for Sport in Queensland on several occasions as well as the Opposition Leader's Office.

Following the insertion of the above amendment into Queensland Labor's policy platform, Jeremy Jones from ABC Capricornia interviewed the Shadow Minister for Sport, Glenn Butcher (Member for Gladstone). On 11 December 2025, Glenn Butcher gave a commitment live on air to developing a concussion strategy if Labor comes to government. I thank Glenn for his engagement with me and look forward to working with Queensland Labor in opposition to roll out the first multi pronged concussion strategy that a government in Australia will ever have developed. This is the type of leadership the community should expect from our elected officials, and with respect to Minister Anika Wells as Federal Minister for Sport (and other relevant portfolios), she should have done this herself.

Over the next year, our team will continue to conduct various educational workshops across Australia. We will do what we can within the confines of a lack of resourcing including assisting people who need help, and I look forward to continuing to provide support for people with concussion across Australia.

Workshop statistics

The workshop statistics that we have put together over the previous three years of our operations appear to be almost identical to our educational workshops from 2025. Some of those statistics at those workshops broadly include:

- After attending our educational workshop, 100% of people felt more prepared to deal with concussion.
- 50% of people (pre workshop) thought that a radiological scan could show if a concussion had occurred (with roughly 42% answering "unsure" and 8% answering yes). After attendance (those who answered), 100% of attendees correctly answered that a radiological scan cannot show whether a concussion has occurred.
- From a sample of two workshops, there were a total of 21 concussions, only five of those concussions had been seen to by a medical practitioner.
- Similar themes to the above can be seen relating to question involving headgear, mouthguards, etc.

Events this year

Our board is in the process of organising 2026. It is likely that we will be holding mass workshops in both Brisbane and Canberra. We have also arranged a medical workshop for a neurological rehabilitation provider and throughout the year we will likely be contacted by different organisations seeking our educational services. On a bi-monthly basis, we will host online support groups, and we will continue to conduct advocacy where we can based on our limited resources (and lack of political appetite from government).

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