

In many cases, the additional injuries have little impact on the quantum of the claim however they do add to the length of time it takes to resolve the claim. With this in mind, where appropriate we will consider 'fast tracking' these claims for unassessed injuries.

What is the fast track process?

If we fast track the claim, we will not make a formal decision about the unassessed injuries. We will ask you to provide evidence to support these injuries prior to informal negotiations or a settlement conference. If you do not provide evidence that supports the injuries we cannot include them in our assessment of the claim.

If we settle the claim, the settlement will include all injuries from the claimed event.

If we do not settle the claim, we will undertake to take all reasonable steps to assess the injuries within 60 days after the conference. If we cannot make a decision in that time, we undertake not to take issue with you amending the Claim and Statement of Claim to include additional accepted injuries.

When will we use the fast track process?

We will consider using this process if your client already has a Notice of Assessment for injuries from the same event (ie 'additional injuries'). We will not use the process if:

- our client requires us to make a formal decision
- we consider it more appropriate to make a formal decision, for example, the employer might require us to make a formal decision.

If you think the claim is appropriate for the fast track process, you can tell us this in your covering letter with the Notice of Claim.

We won't use the fast track process if your client is claiming for a new event (ie a 'common law only' claim).

What happens if we don't use the fast track process?

If we need to make a formal decision about your client's unassessed injuries, we will require you to provide medical evidence to support their injuries. If your client isn't able to provide evidence to support their injuries we will have to reject their claim for these injuries.

Assessing permanent impairment

If your client has a Notice of Assessment for other injuries from the same event, they do not need a Notice of Assessment or permanent impairment assessment to have an entitlement to seek damages for those additional injuries.

We will only arrange an assessment of permanent impairment if your client requires it. In the case of psychiatric injuries, the Medical Assessment Tribunal must complete a permanent impairment assessment. In some cases, you may need to wait several weeks for an appointment. This will obviously delay settlement of your client's claim.

If your client has not previously claimed for the event (a common law only claim) these injuries must be assessed for permanent impairment however the claimant is not entitled to a lump sum offer.

Further information

If you would like further information on unassessed injuries, please call us on 1300 362 128 or visit our web site at www.workcoverqld.com.au.