

# Personal Injury

**Thursday 15 August 2024**

**Session 2 – 11:00am -12:00pm**

## **Panel: Psychological and psychiatric workplace injuries**

This panel discussion will focus on working with complex cases that involve workplace trauma injuries, including trauma experienced by first responders. It will cover the issues affecting accurate diagnosis, such as the contribution of preexisting conditions and client vulnerability. PTSD and complex PTSD and their manifestations will be explored in the context of diagnosis and compensation issues. The session will also consider the information required by an independent medical examiner, and the criteria for reliable medical assessments. The panel will highlight practices for: ensuring legal processes and medical assessments are trauma informed; managing permanent impairment issues and the permanent impairment threshold; and effectively identifying causation.

## **Meet the speakers**

### **Naomi Tancred, Partner, Hicksons Lawyers (moderator)**

Naomi is Hicksons' Chair of Partners and a Partner within the Hicksons Workers Insurance Team, with more than 24 years' experience specialising in insurance law focusing on advising employers in workers compensation and employer liability claims. Naomi is an Accredited Specialist in Personal Injury Law. Her expertise enables her to act for insurers in complex CTP claims, and manage stress claims, as well as sexual harassment and catastrophic injury workers compensation claims. Naomi is a member of the Australian Insurance Law Association and Women in Insurance. She has been recognised in Doyle's Guide as, most recently, a Leading Lawyer NSW, 2023, in the category Leading Workers Compensation Lawyers (Defendant). Naomi was also recognised in Doyle's Guide in 2020 and 2021 as a Leading Lawyer in the same category.

### **Dr Tanya Ahmed, Consulting Trauma Psychiatrist**

Dr Tanya Ahmed, FRANZCP, is a psychiatrist with a background in public health, leadership, health communications and general practice. As a public health clinician, her early career work with Indigenous and refugee populations included dealing with the impact and manifestations of trauma. As a psychiatrist across public and private inpatient and outpatient mental health services she focuses on embedding trauma-informed care and humanising mental health services. Tanya holds a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery from the University of Adelaide (1991), a Master of Public Health and Tropical Medicine from James Cook University and a Graduate Diploma of Health Services Management from UNSW. Tanya currently works in emergency psychiatry at Sydney's Prince of Wales Hospital and as a VMO at a private trauma inpatient service at St John of God Hospital in Richmond, NSW, and she is on the advisory board for a new trauma hospital development.

### **Bruce McLean, Partner, Bartier Perry Lawyers**

Bruce McLean, an Accredited Specialist in Personal Injury Law with many years of experience, has a specific focus on the areas of workers compensation, industrial accident law, and insurance law. His career highlights have included advising on workers compensation claims arising from the Thredbo Landslide disaster and managing a



recovery action by the employer's workers compensation insurer; advising the State Rail Authority on potential workers compensation issues and liabilities following the Waterfall train derailment; and advising the NSW TAFE Commission on claims arising from exposure to toxic chemical waste in the workplace. In addition to his legal qualifications, Bruce has training and assessment qualifications and is co-author of the 3rd edition of *Workers' Compensation Law & Practice in NSW* (CCH). In 2016, and again from 2018 to 2021, Doyle's Guide listed Bruce as a 'Leading Lawyer' in NSW in the area of Workers Compensation (Defendant).

### **Krystal Parisis, Special Counsel, Stacks Goudkamp**

Krystal Parisis has Bachelor of Laws and Master of Laws degrees and is an Accredited Specialist in Personal Injury Law. She was admitted as a solicitor in 2013. Krystal's legal experience is in personal injury law, predominantly workers compensation. She assists workers in accessing the compensation and support they need after suffering a workplace accident, providing practical legal solutions and guiding her clients through the complex legal process of workers compensation. A notable case she acted in was *RSM Building Services Pty Ltd v Hochbaum* [2019] NSWCCPD 15, which concerned the construction of section 39 of the *Workers Compensation Act 1987* (NSW). Krystal is involved with various groups campaigning to change the law for injured workers in NSW. She has been active in protesting unfavourable changes to workers compensation through interaction with iCare board members, unions and members of parliament who are interested in reforming the workers compensation scheme.