



# Workplace Rehabilitation Providers

JUNE 2018

*Getting people back to work, back to health and back to life*

The Australian Rehabilitation Providers Association (ARPA) is the industry voice for the Australian workplace rehabilitation industry. We believe that giving injured workers earlier and more targeted access to independent workplace rehabilitation services is the best way to ensure their safe, timely, sustainable recovery and return to work.

Early referral to focused rehabilitation would save New South Wales **\$30M** each year. In Queensland, independent research showed over a three-year period, government agencies saved **\$6M** in premiums, and **\$25M** in on-costs from early intervention.

## KEY POINTS

- More than **107,000 Australians** suffer serious work-related injuries or illnesses in Australia every year<sup>1</sup>, costing an estimated **\$61.8 billion annually**.
- The industries with the highest rates of serious claims are **agriculture, forestry and fishing; manufacturing** and **construction**.<sup>2</sup>
- The majority of Australia's **2.17 million businesses** are legally required to hold mandatory workers' compensation insurance, costing them over \$10 billion every year.
- In NSW, this insurance helps fund the rehabilitation programs that help 73% of injured people return to work within four weeks.<sup>3</sup>
- Workplace rehabilitation providers deliver significant **value to workplace insurance schemes** as in addition to being effective in helping people get back to work, the approach taken by ARPA's WRPs has been found to be associated with the achievement of positive outcomes that are more **durable** (O'Brien 2007, van Vilsteren, van Oostrom et al. 2015) and **cost effective** (Steenstra, Anema et al. 2006, Williams-Whitt, Bultmann et al. 2016).

## WHAT IS WORKPLACE REHABILITATION?

Workplace rehabilitation is the process of helping an injured worker recover and return to work following an injury or illness.

Workplace rehabilitation providers help address risk factors that can affect a worker's ability to recover at, or return to, work. These factors may include not being to find suitable work; equipment and workplace modification; complex injury management; communication breakdown with an employer.

WRPs can recommend target solutions, including:

- a suitable duties program
- on-the-job training to acquire new job skills
- special assistance for severe injuries.

Workplace rehabilitation can reduce the social and financial cost of workplace injury to the worker, employer and the community.

Workplace rehabilitation achieves leading health outcomes for people, communities and societies

Early referral to focussed rehabilitation would save money in all Australian jurisdictions

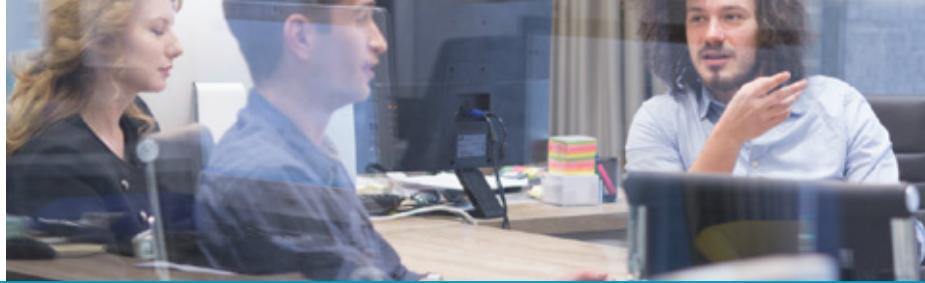
Workplace rehabilitation is at the forefront of mitigating the \$61.8 billion per year costs of work-related injury and disease in Australia

Workplace rehabilitation is an independent and proven way of reducing conflict and resolving adversarial issues

<sup>1</sup> SafeWork Australia, 2015

<sup>2</sup> SafeWork Australia, 2015

<sup>3</sup> SIRA – NSW workers compensation system monthly dashboard, May 2018



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## DID YOU KNOW?

Every workplace insurance policy includes access to a workplace rehabilitation provider (WRP). This service is vital in helping an injured worker transition safely and responsibly back to work after an injury, accident, illness or disease.

Under these prescribed workplace insurance schemes, access to workplace rehabilitation is a right for every worker and is an investment in their health and wellbeing.

## WHY CHOOSE AN ARPA MEMBER?

- ✓ **Allied health professionals** – ARPA members are tertiary qualified, allied health professionals who focus on complex, multi-faceted aspects of returning an injured person to work.
- ✓ **Independent** – ARPA members are independent and therefore free from conflicts of interest inherent in case management services provided by workers' compensation scheme agents and insurers.
- ✓ **Support rehabilitation in the workplace** – Research shows that work is fundamental to good health. ARPA members support rehabilitation in the workplace as a means to provide greater long-term health and vocational outcomes for people with an injury.

## INDEPENDENCE IS KEY

Like treating health professionals, WRPs are independent service providers. Because they are independent, WRPs offer a fair and impartial assessment of the injured person and their individual work situation, which provides better outcomes for everyone, including the worker, their employer, the insurer and the insurance scheme.

WRPs are experts at working in partnership with all parties to prioritise the key elements of an individual's recovery and integrating these with the workplace.

WRPs work closely with employers to ensure their potential for other workplace harm is mitigated, their risk of injuring others in their workplace eliminated or reduced, and the health of the workforce improved.

Benefits include improved workplace safety, improved productivity and reduced financial burden. Research shows work is a central tenet to good health and WRPs play a key role in ensuring people and workplaces benefit from safe, timely and sustainable injury recovery.

For further information, visit [arpa.org.au](http://arpa.org.au).

Safe and sustainable health outcomes are achieved by rehabilitation involvement

Access to workplace rehabilitation is a worker and employer right that keeps and returns people to harmonious workplaces and productive work

Workplace rehabilitation provides an ROI of at least \$28 in claims cost savings for every \$1 invested

Workplace rehabilitation uses evidence based interventions that result in prudent use of scheme funds