

25 July 2018

Dr Patrick Hodder  
A/g Committee Secretary  
Parliamentary Joint Committee on  
Corporations and Financial Services  
Parliament House,  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Dr Hodder,

**Options for greater involvement by private sector life insurers in worker rehabilitation**

I refer to your letter of 18 July 2018 seeking further information in relation to the current inquiry by the Parliamentary Joint Committee.

I can offer the following comments in response to the Committee's questions.

1. Noting the issues raised in your submission, do you have any different views on life insurers having greater involvement in rehabilitation in the following two situations:
  - a. Where an injury illness occurs at or due to work and people have access to relevant workers compensation and other support mechanisms; or
  - b. Where an injury or illness is unrelated to work?

**NIBA comments:**

In each case mentioned in the question, the key issue is this: who is the most appropriate provider to assist the person with their rehabilitation and recovery? It should be expected that the provider will operate in accordance with sound principles and practices of rehabilitation medicine, using evidence based treatment, working towards clear and agreed outcomes.

Our understanding is that relatively few life insurance companies would be in a position to provide rehabilitation services of this nature, either for work related injury or illness or for injury or illness that is not work related.

In each case, the person receiving rehabilitation services and support should be assisted by a professional. In the case of workplace injury or disease, this would normally be a workplace injury coordinator, and in the case of injury or

illness unrelated to work this would normally be their treating medical practitioner.

In these circumstances, it is not at all clear what role a life insurer might play by having greater involvement in the provision or supervision of rehabilitation services.

1. Do you support greater involvement by private sector life insurers in worker rehabilitation before the life insurance industry has completed actioning the recommendations of the committee's Report?

As noted in the answer to the previous question, it is not clear what role life insurers might play in relation to worker rehabilitation. It is therefore not possible, as currently advised, to offer an opinion in response to this question.

I am sorry I have not been able to be of more positive assistance in relation to these questions.

Yours sincerely,

Dallas Booth  
Chief Executive Officer