

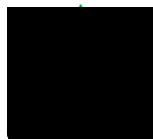
Permanent impairment

Claims for permanent impairment

Comcare is liable to pay compensation to an employee where their accepted compensable condition has resulted in permanent impairment of any body part, system or function.

Permanent impairment payments are lump sum payments which are made separately and in addition to any incapacity payments which might be payable. A separate claim needs to be submitted to claim a permanent impairment payment.

There are two components to a permanent impairment payment: Permanent Impairment (PI) and Non Economic Loss (NEL) payment. Each component is assessed separately, and an employee may be entitled to one, both, or neither component.



Relevant sections of SRC Act

[SRC Act link](#)

The following sections of the SRC Act are relevant to claims for permanent impairment:

- section 24 – Compensation for injuries resulting in permanent impairment
- section 25 – Interim payment of compensation
- section 26 – Payment of compensation
- section 27 – Compensation for non-economic loss
- section 28 – Approved Guide.
- section 45 – Actions for damages – elections by employees

Roles and responsibilities

- Claims Managers are responsible for assessing, calculating and determining permanent impairment payments and communicating with the employee, medical practitioners and employer.
- Injury Managers can assist Claims Managers with assessing medical evidence and deciding when to request an independent medical examination (IME).
- The Claims Administration and Income Support (CAIS) team is responsible for registering new claims for permanent impairment and arranging payments.

In this section

Claim management

∨ Claim reviews

∨ Medical treatment and other support

∨ Rehabilitation and return to work

∨ Incapacity calculation and payment

∨ Reimbursement and other payments

∨ Overpayments and recoveries

✓ Work related death

✓ New or changed conditions

✓ Permanent impairment

✓ Miscellaneous

[Claiming permanent impairment](#)

This page explains the permanent impairment payment for compensation where an accepted compensable condition is permanent. It includes information on:

- [how an employee can claim for permanent impairment](#)
- [assessing if an injury is permanent](#)
- [the compensable degree of permanent impairment](#)
- [employees with multiple compensable impairments or injuries](#)
- [Medicare notification requirements](#), and
- [permanent impairment guides](#).

[Assessing and determining a permanent impairment claim](#)

Once a claim for permanent impairment is received and registered, we need to take action promptly to assess and determine the claim.

This page includes a [process flowchart](#) to help you follow the permanent impairment determination process. It also includes information on:

- [arranging an independent permanent impairment assessment](#)
- [non-economic loss payments](#)
- [Procedure to gather required information to determine a PI claim](#)
- [Procedure to determine liability for permanent impairment](#)
- [Procedure to accept liability for permanent impairment](#)
- [Procedure to offer an interim payment, and](#)
- [Procedure to action an interim payment request.](#)

[Assessing hearing loss claims for permanent impairment](#)

This page provides further guidance in assessing claims for permanent hearing loss, including information on:

- [employees with compensable and non-compensable hearing loss](#)
- [how to assess when hearing loss became permanent](#)
- [tinnitus](#), and
- identifying [which Act is relevant](#).

[Rejecting a claim for permanent impairment](#)

Where the legislative tests are not met, Comcare may reject an employee's claim for permanent impairment.

This page includes information on transitional employees and the Procedure for rejecting liability for permanent impairment.

[Registering a claim for permanent impairment](#)

Pracsys has a separate function (MPIC) for registering and managing permanent impairment claims. This work is done by the CAIS team.

This page includes the procedure for [registering a new claim for permanent impairment](#).

[Calculating permanent impairment payment amounts](#)

Where liability for a permanent impairment claim is likely to be accepted, we need to calculate the permanent impairment payment (or interim payment) before continuing with the acceptance process.

This page includes:

- [Procedure to calculate a permanent impairment payment](#)
- [Procedure to calculate a non-economic loss payment](#)
- [information on late payment of permanent impairment](#), and
- [Procedure to calculate interest payable on a PI payment](#).

[Electing to sue the Commonwealth](#)

Employees who are entitled to receive lump sum payments (under sections 24, 25 or 27 of the SRC Act) may make an election to sue the Commonwealth for damages (under section 45 of the SRC Act), instead of receiving compensation for permanent impairment.

This page includes information on when and how an employee can elect to sue the Commonwealth instead of receiving compensation payments. It also includes information about [submitting a valid section 45 Election Form](#).