

ESF IMPACT

newsletter

ISSUE 24, 28 March 2022

TACKLING THE BIG ISSUE



To kick off ESF's Mental Health Showcase we hosted a gathering of executives from across the sector to meet with WorkSafe's Chair John Merritt and CEO Colin Radford.

They presented a picture in metrics which made absolutely clear the human, operational, societal, and financial cost of mental injury.

- At February 2022, 24% of all mental injury claims were from emergency services employers compared to 15.67% in February 2022.
- Emergency s experienced +44% growth in overall claims over the past year.
- PTSD accounts for 36% of claims for emergency services.
- The majority relate to other factors such as workload, interpersonal conflict, and bullying.

According to John It is not so much the jobs we do - the emergency is closer to home and the hazard is other people. The sector was urged to plan and respond to the mental injury crisis in the same way we are accustomed to dealing with disasters.

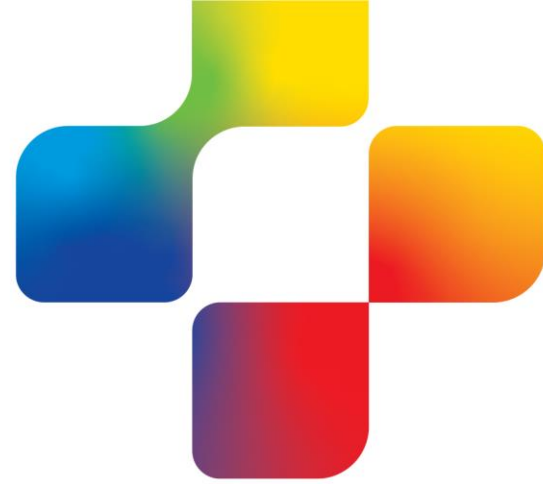
A reported one third of psychologists left the industry last year so he said, 'Help is not on the way!' Research has found that mental health claimants had poorer return to work experiences and were less likely to return to work a year after their injury. Both factors can be linked with negative supervisor responses.

He said, 'We want people who lead people to think their number one job is caring for people.' Pleasingly, this is the essence of ESFs Leading for Better Mental Health program to develop team leaders.



better together

With that in mind and knowing that the time between injury and seeking treatment is critical to recovery he asked the executive leaders to consider how they can harness the power of their leadership individually and collectively to win this battle and make a real and meaningful difference to many thousands of people. The ESF Stakeholder Council has discussed the challenge and will continue to focus on it as a strategic issue.



REACTIONS

The message was clear. The most powerful thing we can do as leaders is not wait for others to come in to help. A fantastic session!

**Pete Nicholson, Deputy CEO
Gallagher Bassett Australia**

There is no doubt that there is a lot of work to be done in the sector.

Carnedd Williams, Director Health & Wellbeing FRV

This is about selecting, preparing, and supporting the right leaders at all levels.

Andrew Crisp, Emergency Services Commissioner

The session validated what we knew intuitively about the impact of mental health on our people but being together on the day allowed us to appreciate more how we need to work on this issue as a sector rather than as individual organisations.

Tony Pearce, ESF Chair and Inspector General for Emergency Management



ESF Mental Health Showcase

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