PREVENTION. CARE. RECOVERY. Te Kaporeihana Äwhina Hunga Whara

03 February 2022

Tēnā koe

Your Official Information Act request, reference: GOV-016547 & GOV-016514

Thank you for your emails of 31 January 2022, addressed to the Ministry of Health, asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- 1. (1) if I die due to a vaccine that has not yet completed clinical trials does ACC pay my family for the loss income given I am the sole provider? I earn over \$250k per annum so I'm wanting to know what cover is provided by this government given it had been conceded that's deaths have occurred due to the administration of this drug
- 2. All information pertaining to ACC claims that relate to vaccination injuries and damage

As advised by the Ministry of Health on 1 February 2022, your requests were transferred to ACC for response.

Our response

A physical injury resulting from a vaccination, including the COVID-19 vaccine, may be covered by ACC if the criteria for a treatment injury are met.

A treatment injury is a personal injury caused as a result of seeking or receiving medical treatment from, or at the direction of, a registered health professional. In order to fulfil the criteria for cover, the person must have suffered a personal injury and there must be a clear causal link between the treatment and the injury, and the injury must not be a necessary part or ordinary consequence of the treatment.

Where a treatment injury claim is accepted, ACC will pay or contribute to the cost of treatment, rehabilitation, and compensation as appropriate. In the event of a death resulting from the COVID-19 vaccine, the dependents of the deceased may be entitled to weekly compensation. ACC would also contribute to the cost of a funeral.

Weekly compensation

According to ACC's legislation, to be eligible for weekly compensation, a person must have been receiving a salary or wages 28 days prior to the date of accident. This legislation applies to treatment injuries as well as physical injuries caused by accidents. Therefore, a person who has an accepted treatment injury resulting from a COVID-19 vaccine would only be eligible for weekly compensation if they met the above criteria.

COVID-19 vaccine injury claims data available online

Information relating to Covid-19 vaccinations is available on our website here: <u>https://www.acc.co.nz/assets/oia-responses/IPA5361-Covid-Vaccination-Claims-Refresh-Jan22.pdf</u>. This data was extracted on 12 January 2022 and includes claims lodged between 18 February 2021 (when New Zealand began Covid vaccinations) and 8 January 2022. Please note that this data is updated monthly. Also, on our website are the published OIAs on this topic which can be found here: <u>https://www.acc.co.nz/resources/#/category/12</u>.

How to contact us

If you have any questions, you can email me at <u>GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz</u>.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, ACC has decided to proactively release a copy of this response on ACC's website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release. The released response will be made available <u>here</u>.

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at <u>www.ombudsman.parliament.nz</u> or by phoning 0800 802 602.

Nāku iti noa, nā

Sasha Wood Manager Official Information Act Services Government Engagement & Support