



Media release

Thursday 15 March, 2018

Lived experience brings fresh contribution to CTP review

A group of Canberra residents with direct experience of the ACT's CTP scheme are concerned any one-size-fits-all changes to the scheme may jeopardise the quality and accessibility of future support and compensation for those injured in car accidents.

Independent consultant, CNS Projects has released the report "Your Experiences Are Important" resulting from the deliberative democracy workshop held a fortnight ago which explored the experience of the Canberra community under the current CTP scheme.

"The people who came to the workshop told brave stories of the enormous impact an accident can have on a person's life – often forever," Ms Seils said.

Today's report is designed to complement the work of the citizens' jury of 50 Canberrans who are helping the government to decide the priorities for review and possible reform of the CTP insurance scheme in the ACT.

"A diverse group of Canberrans came together for the deliberative democracy workshop to tell their stories of injury through car accidents, and their personal CTP story and journey to recovery," CNS Projects' and workshop consultant, Nicole Seils said.

"The participants discussed the same issues surrounding the current CTP scheme as those identified as important by the citizens' jury and also considered some of the elements of possible alternate schemes," Ms Seils said.

The workshop report details how the participants felt the current CTP system had served them well when they were injured and that it was important that remains the case for future road accident victims and their families.

A group of Canberra law firms commissioned the independent workshop to ensure the lived experience of those who have engaged directly with the CTP scheme was fully captured for the ACT government's consideration as it conducts a review of CTP insurance in the ACT.

"The participants felt strongly that it was important to protect access to compensation and treatment for not-at-fault victims injured by at-fault drivers in considering any review of the current scheme, and that these victims should remain the focus of CTP insurance," Ms Seils said.

The report found the observations made by these Canberrans point to the need for CTP system that is nuanced, flexible and humane in dealing with accident victims who are particularly vulnerable, as they seek to deal with what is often a life-changing event.

The Canberra law firms which commissioned the independent workshop have welcomed the insight into the lived experience of Canberra's CTP scheme provided by the participants and thanked them for their time and contribution an important community issue.

The report "Your Experiences Are Important" can be downloaded at livedctp.org

Background:

The ACT government is conducting a review of CTP insurance in the ACT and has gathered a citizens' jury of 50 Canberrans to help decide the priorities for review and possible reform of the CTP insurance scheme in the ACT.

To ensure the lived experience of those who have engaged with the CTP scheme was also captured for the ACT government's consideration, a group of Canberra law firms commissioned an independent deliberative democracy workshop to complement the work of the citizens' jury.

CNS Projects drew a random sample of CTP claimants from a list of legal claimants and brought them together to share their experiences and deliberate about some of the key issues in a one day workshop in Canberra on February 28, 2018.

The workshop was run by independent facilitator and deliberative democracy expert, Dr Wendy Russell of Double Arrow Consulting, a Canberra-based business specialising in two-way engagement.

During the workshop, participants told their CTP story and what they thought the citizens' jury needs to know to make the best decision.

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