

Doctor, I am disabled

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The Australian medical profession is well trained in the assessment and management of a wide range of acute injuries/illnesses. However, the ongoing management of chronic injuries/illnesses and their ultimate assessment for the purposes of Impairment and/or Disability requires a different skill mix and medical perspective. Over the last 2 decades, Australian doctors have become well versed in various methodologies to assess the Permanent Impairment of a claimant/worker/client/patient, as legislated by multiple Australian jurisdictions.

The same outcome cannot be said for the assessment and management of injuries/illnesses leading to Disability. Most Australian doctors are not formally trained to understand the concepts of Disability versus Impairment. Some organizations continue to seek Disability medical assessments from the treating doctor only, which may lead to bias and a diminished capacity to return to paid employment.

This presentation will cover the issues of Disability assessment and management strategies within Australia, as seen through the eyes of an independent medical assessor.