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ANZASW Legal Advisory Panel

29 July 2020

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USING THE SOCIAL WORKERS LEGAL ADVISORY PANEL

In concert with the Aotearoa New Zealand Association of Social Workers, Crombie Lockwood have established the Social Workers Legal Advisory Panel.

The Social Workers Legal Advisory Panel has been set up as a unique value added service available to insured Social Workers. The service provides a panel of experienced and approved legal firms to assist members when issues arise that could result in a claim. This helps you get the right advice at a very early stage and ensures you meet the reporting requirements of your insurance.

The purpose of the panel is to allow you to obtain advice from a lawyer should a matter arise that is claim [or possible claim] related. The lawyer will be able to provide advice as to the circumstances of the matter, whether it is [or is likely to become] a claimable event and what you need to do next. They will also directly notify your insurer to start the claim process if this is appropriate.

You should contact the designated personnel from the panel of legal firms for initial discussions and general advice:

- If you received an indication of any breach or potential breach of professional services.
- If you have been subpoenaed as a witness.
- If a client has uplifted their file and intimates that they may claim against you.
- On other professional issues relevant to claims or potential claims provided under the ANZASW Member's policy.

The initial reporting and advice is free of charge for all enquiries relating to a claim or possible claim circumstance, up to a limit of \$2,500. If the matter develops into a claim that is within the cover of the policy, your insurance will pay for ongoing legal costs associated with defending a claim or possible claim. If you require advice or services beyond claims advice this may be chargeable to your own account. The panel member will give you clear prior advice should this arise.

Your insurance policy has an excess, currently \$500, which each Insured member is responsible for. This is an insurance policy provision and cannot be offset against the free advice offered by this panel. If a claim develops or ongoing legal advice is required the excess will become payable by each Insured member.

The services of the Legal Advisory Panel may be accessed by at 0800 694-294. It is possible [though rare] that the law firms on the Panel may have a prior conflict of interest. If so they will advise you and you should contact Natasha Clarke who will organise alternative legal advice.

Any matters relating to your insurance coverage or policy operation should be directed to the ANZASW's insurance broker:

- Natasha Clarke
- Crombie Lockwood (NZ) Limited
- DDI: 03 335 311
- Email: natasha.clarke@crombielockwood.co.nz