

## **How insurance systems can affect work disability prevention**

### Keynote Sessions

Faculty:

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Globally, most nations have established social protection systems that provide financial aid and healthcare for people with work-related injuries or illnesses. These often operate as insurance systems, with a funding pool established via employer or employee contributions to support rehabilitation and disability prevention activities. Evidence of the critical importance of these insurance systems on worker outcomes has emerged in recent years. In this talk, I will summarise this evidence and how a systems view can support advances in work disability prevention. I will discuss recent research in four areas that collectively establish the critical importance of insurance system structure and process on work disability. First, a series of comparative workers' compensation studies provide evidence of variation in health service use and work disability duration between systems with different policy features. Second, population-based evaluations of insurance system reform demonstrate that system change can enormously impact access to care and workability. Thirds, qualitative studies of worker and stakeholder experiences identify system features as critically important to worker recovery and return to work. Finally, computational models enable the visualisation and estimation of policy and practice impact across and between work disability systems. These findings are consistent with current conceptual models that emphasise the importance of system-level factors in work disability prevention but also extend these models to provide insights into how systems reform can support work disability prevention.

### **About Our Speaker:**

Alex Collie

Professor Alex Collie is the Director of the Healthy Working Lives Research Group and Co-Director of the Division of Health Services Systems and Policy, in the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. He is an Australian Research Council Future Fellow (2020 to 2024) and a Churchill Fellow.