



25 Nov 2018
Sunday Mail Brisbane, Brisbane



Section: General News • Article Type: News Item • Audience : 289,888 • Page: 25
Printed size: 93.00cm² • Region: QLD • Market: Australia • ASR: AUD 3,022 • words: 196
Item ID: 1041502539

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Lawyer claims RACQ is behind CTP fear drive

AN injury compensation lawyer has accused the RACQ of scare-mongering over Compulsory Third Party motor insurance claims.

Trent Johnson, a specialist with Brisbane firm Bennett & Philp Lawyers, says the RACQ led a campaign by insurers to blame lawyers for a spike in CTP claims. "Insurers have wanted to scrap the state's fault-based CTP payouts scheme and replace it with so-called 'guaranteed defined benefits' – in other words, caps on payouts for injured claimants, which have proved disastrous for claimants in other states such as New South Wales," he said.

But Mr Johnson said the

latest annual report by the Motor Accident Insurance Commission, which runs the Queensland CTP scheme, shows it is in a strong and sustainable shape.

The main challenge identified was a scam called 'claim farming' – where the personal details of people involved in crashes were obtained and used by cold callers to pressure the vehicle owners to make a CTP insurance claim, then sell these details to law firms for a profit.

But Mr Johnson said this involved interstate law firms not bound by the caps on the sums Queensland lawyers can charge for fees to pursue such small claims.