

(SPECT) scan. This is a scanning technique that uses a tomographic method of a CT scan and MRI in combination with the detection of photons emitted when a tracer is administered.

PET and SPECT scanning have moved beyond their limited utility as research tools. They have now demonstrated a clinical usefulness, but two or three years may pass before these methods will have gained widespread application.

### Conclusion

For many years, the diagnosis of post concussion syndrome has been helpful but too general. Now with new scanning devices and more education, lawyers can make the references to get the proper help and assistance for diagnosis, treatment, and compensation for TBI victims.

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## New Zealand Personal Injury Claims

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The existence of the New Zealand Accident Compensation legislation is no doubt fairly well-known in Australia.

It is commonly believed that its effect is to prevent anyone from bringing a common law personal injury claim in this country.

In fact, there are several exceptions to this. For example:

1. Claims for exemplary damages are still permitted. There are increasing signs that New Zealand courts are prepared to expand the range of circumstances in which exemplary damages may be awarded, to compensate for perceived deficiencies in the statutory scheme.
2. Common law claims can now be brought for purely mental injury suffered after 30 June 1992.
3. Some product liability claims for compensatory damages can be brought for injuries suffered after 30 June 1992.
4. It may be possible to sue in respect of medical matters, if the breach of duty was committed by someone other than a doctor or other registered health professional.
5. There may be some scope for claims where the injury was suffered outside New Zealand.

Roger welcomes any enquires members may have about personal injury claims in New Zealand.

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