

# Balcony fall man sues

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## Club faces claim for \$500,000 after railing breaks

A MANUNDA man is suing AFL Cairns for almost \$500,000 after he was knocked unconscious falling through a balcony railing at one of their residential buildings.

Legal representatives for Walter Nona have lodged documents in the Cairns District Court claiming he had suffered long-term injuries as a result of the 2015 fall, which had affected his job prospects.

They have accused AFL Cairns of being negligent in their upkeep of the Dillon St building in Westcourt.

The documents, obtained by the Cairns Post, claim Mr Nona was a guest at the property and leant against a wooden railing on the upstairs balcony which gave way. He fell more than 3m to the ground.

The 25-year-old former boilermaker suffered a head

injury, laceration to the head, a neck injury and lacerations to his left hand and big toe.

He lost consciousness and was taken by ambulance to Cairns Hospital where he required "surgical, medical, rehabilitation, conservative and other treatment and medication".

Ongoing medical issues include episodic dizziness, neck pain, headaches and difficulties working in confined

spaces, lifting and carrying, bending, operating machinery, welding and fabricating metal.

He is claiming damages of \$475,560.99, which predominantly involve past and future earnings.

"The plaintiff suffers permanent impairment and functional incapacity that impairs earning capacity and places the plaintiff at a disadvantage on the open labour market," the claim said.

"(He) has required and will continue to require medical and conservative treatment, painkilling and anti-inflammatory medication and other pharmaceutical products.

"(He) has been left with loss of function and whole person impairment."

It said he was currently working as a plasterer but his wage was significantly lower than when employed as a boilermaker.

It is unknown yet whether AFL Cairns will defend the lawsuit.

The house where the incident took place is directly behind Cazaly's Stadium and is understood to be one of eight residential properties it owns.

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