

WorkCoverSA

Psychology fee schedule Consultation paper

January 2014

Introduction

WorkCoverSA is seeking to gazette new fees for medical, allied health, private and public hospital services, effective 1 July 2014.

This paper describes the proposed changes to psychology fees and services and invites the Institute of Private Practising Psychologists (IPPP) and the Australian Psychological Society Ltd (APS) to provide feedback. Employer and employee stakeholders are also invited to provide feedback.

Written feedback should be posted or emailed to:

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The formal consultation process will be for a 6 week period commencing on 20 January 2014. Please provide your feedback to WorkCoverSA by no later than close of business on **Friday 28 February 2014**.

If you have any significant issues or questions regarding the proposal, please advise WorkCoverSA before the closing date so they can be considered, or discussed at a meeting, within the consultation timeframe.

Background

The *Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1986* (the Act) requires WorkCoverSA to set fees based on the average charge to private patients for the relevant service (but the amount fixed for the service must not exceed the amount recommended by the relevant professional association).

The Act also requires WorkCoverSA to consult with stakeholders, including professional associations representing providers, before a fee schedule is published.

WorkCoverSA intends to publish a new fee schedule for psychology services, effective 1 July 2014 and this paper forms part of the formal consultation process.

Fee calculation methodology and proposed fee increase

The increase in average private charges for allied health services (including psychology) has been analysed using 2012-13 Medicare data. This increase has been compared to the June 2013 annual Australian Bureau of Statistics Consumer Price Index – CPI (2.4%).

As both information sources indicate similar outcomes, it is proposed to increase psychology fees by the annual CPI amount (2.4%), effective 1 July 2014.

The table below outlines the current and proposed hourly rate for psychologists:

Group	Current hourly rate	Proposed hourly rate 1 July 2014
Psychology	\$166.20	\$170.20

Review of service descriptions and policy

A number of additions, deletions and amendments have been made to service items and related payment conditions (refer attached draft fee schedule) and we seek your feedback on the proposed changes.

Next steps

To enable fees to become effective on 1 July 2014 WorkCoverSA will:

- consider and respond to feedback provided by the IPPP and APS and employer and employee stakeholders; and
- forward the fee schedule to the Minister for Industrial Relations for publishing in the South Australian Government Gazette. Any significant issues raised by Stakeholders will be included in the briefing paper to the Minister for Industrial Relations.