

From: Vernon, Marcia
Sent: Monday, 31 March 2014 3:05 PM
To: Denise Keenan; Carmel Wauchope
Cc: Francis, Michael; McCarthy, Greg
Subject: RE: IPPP and APS correspondence to WC - March 2014
Importance: High

Good afternoon Carmel and Denise

Thank you for your letter dated 24 March 2014 expressing the concerns the Australian Psychological Society (APS) and the Institute of Private Practicing Psychologists (IPPP) have with the changes WorkCoverSA are making to the return to work services fee schedule.

Firstly my apologies for omitting both your organisations as being included in the consultation process. This was an oversight and certainly not intentional.

In the new RTW Services fee schedule, the Vocational Assessment sits within the RTW Assessment Service section. I can confirm that only qualified psychologists are able to deliver the Vocational Assessment service. The current arrangement has not, and is not intended to change. We will amend the RTW Services fee schedule wherever it fails to reflect this accurately or clearly.

We are currently reviewing the fees for return to work services and their indexation. This process may result in the fees for RTW Consultant - Class A being indexed to align with the recently approved Allied Health fee indexation that is effective from 1 July 2014 - \$170.20. In addition it may result in the fee for RTW Consultant - Class B also being indexed. This review process is unlikely to be finalised until early May 2014. As such, any communications in relation to fees have had to reflect the current fees to avoid pre-empting the outcome of our review and any confusion. I hope to be able to provide you with an outcome of our deliberations as soon as they're available in early May.

There are a number of benefits in moving particular services from the Allied Health fee schedules to the return to work services fee schedule, including the Vocational Assessment service. It will ensure that all providers of RTW services are required to meet the same standards and accountability, in particular, the requirements of the Heads of Workers Compensation Authorities' Workplace Rehabilitation Nationally Consistent Framework, to which WorkCoverSA is a signatory. It will also enable WorkCover to measure and manage provider performance and the outcomes achieved under a consistent framework.

We welcome the opportunity to continue to consult with and work constructively with both the APS and IPPP into the future.

Kind regards

Marcia Vernon

Director, Health and Return to Work Services