

8 March 2024

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Jodie York
Manager, Provider Programs ReturnToWorkSA
400 King William Street
Adelaide SA 5000

Via email: providers@rtwsa.com

Dear Jodie,

ReturnToWorkSA – Proposed Psychology Fees for 2024–25

The Australian Psychological Society (APS) and ReturnToWorkSA (RTWSA) regularly consult on matters to achieve the best possible outcomes for South Australians with a work injury. We support the Scheme's mission to deliver the best quality care and treatment to injured workers and we appreciate the opportunity to formally respond to the current consultation regarding the RTWSA psychology fees for 2024-25.

In providing this feedback, we have taken into account previous discussions between the APS and RTWSA related to the psychology fee structure and reviewed the consultation paper. Overall, we support the RTWSA psychology fee structure for 2024–25 and the proposed increase of 6% for all psychology items. We believe that benchmarking the psychology fees on the clinical average private charge is a good outcome for all psychologists.

A small concern for the APS is that the proposal for travel time remains slightly below that of a standard consultation fee. As outlined in previous submissions, when travelling to visit clients, psychologists cannot provide services to other clients, including injured workers. In these circumstances, offering an even lower rate for travel time may be perceived as a disincentive for psychologists to participate in travel related activities, e.g., in situ treatment following best practice guidelines. We therefore recommend aligning the fees for travel time with that of a consultation.

We offer our support to RTWSA in terms of communicating the changes to the fee structure to APS members and look forward to continuing to meet regularly with RTWSA. We are keen to consider the potential for future partnership opportunities, such as the development of resources and training to support psychologists (and other health practitioners) working within the Scheme.

Thank you again for the opportunity to respond to the current consultation regarding the RTWSA psychology fees for 2024-25. Please don't hesitate to contact me, should any further information be required, on (03) 8662 3300 or at z.burgess@psychology.org.au.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Zena Burgess FAPS FAICD
Chief Executive Officer