



New South Wales

Motor Accidents Compensation Regulation (No 2) 1999

under the

Motor Accidents Compensation Act 1999

His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has made the following Regulation under the *Motor Accidents Compensation Act 1999*.

JOHN DELLA BOSCA, M.L.C.,

Special Minister of State

Explanatory note

The objects of this Regulation are:

- (a) to fix the maximum amounts payable by insurers for certain treatment provided in connection with motor accidents covered by the compulsory third-party insurance scheme under the *Motor Accidents Compensation Act 1999*, and
- (b) to fix maximum costs for legal services provided in connection with claims relating to motor accidents covered by that scheme, and
- (c) to fix maximum costs for the provision by medical practitioners of certain medico-legal services in connection with such claims, and
- (d) to limit the costs payable to a claimant in respect of expert witnesses giving evidence or providing reports on the claimant's behalf, and
- (e) to provide for the assessment of costs by a claims assessor under the Act, and
- (f) to repeal the *Motor Accidents Compensation Regulation 1999* and to remake a provision of that Regulation.

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Explanatory note

The amounts referred to in paragraph (a) are fixed by reference to the *List of Medical Services & Fees* published by the Australian Medical Association and effective from 1 November 1999.

This Regulation is made under the *Motor Accidents Compensation Act 1999*, including section 56 (Maximum fees payable by insurers for medical treatment and other treatment or services not provided at hospitals or for treatment at private hospitals), Chapter 6 (Costs), section 228 (the general regulation-making power) and clause 2 of Schedule 5 (which allows the regulations to contain provisions of a savings or transitional nature consequent on the enactment of the Act).

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Motor Accidents Compensation Regulation (No 2) 1999

Part 1 Preliminary

1 Name of Regulation

This Regulation is the *Motor Accidents Compensation Regulation (No 2) 1999*.

2 Commencement

This Regulation commences on 17 December 1999.

3 Definition

In this Regulation:

the Act means the *Motor Accidents Compensation Act 1999*.

4 Notes

The explanatory note, table of contents and notes in the text of this Regulation do not form part of this Regulation.

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Clause 5 Motor Accidents Compensation Regulation (No 2) 1999

Part 2 Fees payable by insurers for certain treatment

Part 2 Fees payable by insurers for certain treatment

5 Definition

In this Part:

AMA List means the document called *List of Medical Services & Fees* (ISSN 1329–1955) published by the Australian Medical Association and dated 1 November 1999.

6 Application of Part

- (1) This Part applies in relation to treatment to which section 56 of the Act applies, being treatment:
 - (a) that is provided to an injured person by a health care professional, and
 - (b) in respect of which a fee is specified in the AMA List.
- (2) However, this Part does not apply in relation to treatment received by an injured person before the commencement of this Regulation.

7 Maximum amounts payable by insurer for certain treatment

The maximum amount for which an insurer is liable in respect of any claim for fees payable for treatment to which this Part applies is the amount listed, in respect of the treatment concerned, in the AMA List.

Note. Section 56 does not apply to treatment that is provided at a hospital (whether to an in-patient or an out-patient) and for which any payment is required to be made to the hospital and not to the provider of the treatment. The section also applies to the fee payable to a private hospital for any treatment at the hospital.

Part 3 Costs

Division 1 Maximum costs recoverable by legal practitioners

8 Application of Division

- (1) This Division is made under section 149 of the Act and applies to costs for legal services payable on a party and party basis, on a solicitor and client basis or on any other basis.

Note. Section 149 (2) of the *Motor Accidents Compensation Act 1999* provides that a legal practitioner is not entitled to be paid or recover for a legal service or other matter an amount that exceeds any maximum costs fixed for the service or matter by regulations under section 149.

- (2) This Division does not affect costs recovered before the commencement of this Regulation or for which a bill of costs was issued before that commencement.

Note. Section 147 (2) of the *Motor Accidents Compensation Act 1999* provides that expressions in Chapter 6 (Costs) of that Act (and consequently expressions used in this Part) have the same meaning as in Part 11 (Legal fees and other costs) of the *Legal Profession Act 1987*, except where otherwise provided. Under the *Legal Profession Act 1987*, "costs" includes barristers' and solicitors' fees as well as other items that may be charged by barristers and solicitors (such as expenses and disbursements).

9 Fixing of maximum costs recoverable by legal practitioners

- (1) The maximum costs for legal services provided to a claimant or to an insurer in any motor accidents matter are the costs set out in Schedule 1, except as otherwise provided by this Part.

Note. Division 2 of Part 11 of the *Legal Profession Act 1987* requires barristers and solicitors, before providing any legal services to a client, to provide the client with a written disclosure of the basis of the costs (or an estimate of the likely costs) of legal services concerned.

- (2) If there is a change in the legal practitioner retained by a claimant or insurer in a motor accidents matter, the relevant costs are to be apportioned between the legal practitioners concerned.

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Part 3 Costs

Division 1 Maximum costs recoverable by legal practitioners

- (3) If there is a dispute as to such an apportionment, either legal practitioner concerned (or the client claimant or insurer concerned) may refer the dispute to a claims assessor for determination (unless the dispute arose in a matter in which, under section 92 of the Act, the claim is exempt from assessment).
- (4) A legal practitioner has the same right of appeal against a determination made under subclause (3) as the practitioner would have under section 208L or 208M of the *Legal Profession Act 1987* if the determination were a determination made by a costs assessor under Part 11 of that Act in relation to a bill of costs.

10 Excluded matters

- (1) The maximum costs set out in Schedule 1 do not apply in respect of a matter in which, under section 92 of the Act, the claim is exempt from assessment.
- (2) An exclusion under this clause in respect of a matter involving a claim referred to in section 92 (1) (b) of the Act extends to any costs incurred before the matter became exempt.

11 Contracting out—solicitor/client costs

- (1) This clause applies in respect of costs in a motor accidents matter if a legal practitioner:
 - (a) makes a disclosure under Division 2 of Part 11 of the *Legal Profession Act 1987* (sections 180 and 181 excepted) to a party to the matter with respect to the costs, and
 - (b) enters into a costs agreement (other than a conditional costs agreement within the meaning of Part 11) with that party as to those costs in accordance with Division 3 of that Part, and
 - (c) before entering into the costs agreement, advises the party (in a separate written document) that, even if costs are awarded in favour of the party, the party will be liable to pay such amount of the costs provided for in the costs agreement as exceeds the amount that would be payable under the Act in the absence of a costs agreement.
- (2) Schedule 1 does not apply to the costs concerned to the extent that they are payable on a solicitor and client basis.

Division 2 Maximum fees recoverable by medical practitioners for medico-legal services

12 Application of Division

- (1) This Division is made under section 150 of the Act and applies in respect of fees for the provision of medical reports, and appearances as witnesses, by medical practitioners.

Note. Section 150 (2) of the *Motor Accidents Compensation Act 1999* provides that a medical practitioner is not entitled to be paid or recover any fee for providing a service that exceeds any maximum fee fixed under section 150 for the provision of the service.

- (2) This Division does not affect fees recovered before the commencement of this Regulation or for which a bill was issued before that commencement.

13 Fixing of maximum fees recoverable by medical practitioners for medico-legal services

The maximum fees for providing a service specified in Schedule 2 in relation to any motor accident are the fees set out in that Schedule for that service, except as otherwise provided by this Part.

Division 3 Costs in relation to expert witnesses

14 Limit on costs for expert witnesses

- (1) Costs are not to be included in an assessment or award of damages in respect of any expert witness giving evidence, or providing a report, on behalf of the claimant in relation to a claims assessment or in court proceedings under the Act, except for costs in respect of:
- (a) one medical expert in any speciality (unless there is a substantial issue as to a matter referred to in section 58 (1) (c) or (d) of the Act—in which case costs are payable in respect of 2 medical experts in any speciality relevant to the injury concerned), and
 - (b) 2 experts of any other kind.

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Part 3 Costs

Division 3 Costs in relation to expert witnesses

- (2) Subclause (1) does not apply if the claims assessor or court concerned agrees that costs are payable in respect of a greater number of expert witnesses in the matter.
- (3) This clause extends to costs incurred in connection with medical assessments.

Division 4 Assessment of costs by claims assessor

15 Claims assessor may assess costs

- (1) In making an assessment and specifying damages under section 94 of the Act in respect of a claim, a claims assessor may include in the assessment an assessment of the claimant's costs (including costs for legal services referred to in Schedule 1 and fees for medico-legal services referred to in Schedule 2) in the matter.
- (2) An assessment of those costs may also be made (whether or not an assessment has been made under subclause (1)) if a court does not determine a matter after the issue of a certificate under section 94 but remits the matter to the Motor Accidents Claims Assessment and Resolution Service for further assessment.
- (3) In making an assessment under this clause, a claims assessor:
 - (a) may have regard to the amount of any written offer of settlement made by either party to the matter, and
 - (b) must give effect to:
 - (i) any requirement of a court under section 151 (3) of the Act, and
 - (ii) Division 3 of this Part.
- (4) The amount of any assessment under this clause must not exceed the relevant amounts set out in Schedules 1 and 2.
- (5) A claimant or an insurer (or a legal practitioner retained by a claimant or an insurer in respect of the relevant claim) has the same right of appeal against an assessment made under this clause as the claimant, insurer or legal practitioner would have under section 208L or 208M of the *Legal Profession Act 1987* if the assessment were a determination made by a costs assessor under Part 11 of that Act in respect of a bill of costs.

Part 4 Miscellaneous

16 Current third-party insurance policies issued under Motor Accidents Act 1988

- (1) A third-party policy of insurance issued under the *Motor Accidents Act 1988* that has effect for any period on or after the commencement of this Regulation is taken, in respect of any motor accident occurring on or after that commencement, to be a third-party policy of insurance issued under the *Motor Accidents Compensation Act 1999*.
- (2) Any such policy may be cancelled on or after the commencement of this Regulation only in accordance with the provisions of the *Motor Accidents Compensation Act 1999*.

Note. See clause 6 of the *Motor Accidents Compensation Regulation 1999* and section 30 (2) of the *Interpretation Act 1987* in relation to third-party policies of insurance issued under the *Motor Accidents Act 1988* and having effect for any part of the period commencing on 5 October 1999 (and ending on the commencement of this Regulation).

17 Repeal

- (1) The *Motor Accidents Compensation Regulation 1999* is repealed.
- (2) Any act, matter or thing that had effect under the *Motor Accidents Compensation Regulation 1999* immediately before the commencement of this Regulation is taken to have effect under this Regulation.

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Schedule 1 Maximum costs for legal services

Schedule 1 Maximum costs for legal services

(Clause 9 (1))

1 Costs determined by reference to certain stages in the matter

- (1) The maximum costs for legal services provided for a stage of a motor accidents matter set out in Column 1 of Table A to this clause are the costs set out in Column 2 opposite that stage.
- (2) However, if a legal practitioner was first retained in the matter after a certificate as to the claims assessment is issued under section 94 of the Act, the costs are those set out in Table B to this clause.

Table A

Column 1	Column 2
Stage	Costs
1 For assistance in completing an accident notification form	Nil (except, in respect of a legal practitioner acting for a claimant, in so far as the assistance forms part of stage 2)
2 From the acceptance of the retainer to the preparation and service of a notice of claim under section 72 of the Act (including the provision of all relevant particulars about the claim to the insurer, even if those particulars are requested after the claim is served)	(a) in the case of a legal practitioner acting for a claimant—\$200 (b) in the case of a legal practitioner acting for an insurer—nil
3 From service of the notice of claim under section 72 of the Act to the preparation and service of a response to insurer's offer of settlement under section 82 of the Act	(a) in the case of a legal practitioner acting for a claimant—\$300 (b) in the case of a legal practitioner acting for an insurer—nil

Column 1	Column 2
Stage	Costs
4 If settlement occurs without the issue of a certificate under section 94 of the Act—from service of the response to the insurer's offer of settlement under section 82 of the Act to finalisation of the matter	<p>In addition to the \$500 specified for stages 1 and 2 (if chargeable):</p> <p>(a) if the settlement amount is \$20,000 or less and the insurer wholly admitted liability for the claim—\$500</p> <p>(b) if the settlement amount is \$20,000 or less and the insurer denied liability for up to 25% of the claim—10% of the settlement amount</p> <p>(c) if the settlement amount is more than \$20,000 but less than \$50,001 and the insurer wholly admitted liability for the claim—\$500 plus 12% of every dollar of the settlement amount over \$20,000</p> <p>(d) if the settlement amount is more than \$20,000 but less than \$50,001 and the insurer denied liability for up to 25% of the claim—\$2,000 plus 12% of every dollar of the settlement amount over \$20,000</p> <p>(e) if the settlement amount is \$50,001 or more but less than \$100,001 and the insurer wholly admitted liability for the claim—\$4,100 plus 10% of every dollar of the settlement amount over \$50,000</p> <p>(f) if the settlement amount is \$50,001 or more but less than \$100,001 and the insurer denied liability for up to 25% of the claim—\$5,600 plus 10% of every dollar of the settlement amount over \$50,000</p>

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Schedule 1 Maximum costs for legal services

Column 1	Column 2
Stage	Costs
	(g) if the settlement amount is \$100,001 or more and the insurer wholly admitted liability for the claim—\$9,100 plus 2% of every dollar of the settlement amount over \$100,000
	(h) if the settlement amount is \$100,001 or more and the insurer denied liability for up to 25% of the claim—\$10,600 plus 2% of every dollar of the settlement amount over \$100,000
5 The issue of a certificate under section 94 of the Act	An amount determined, in accordance with stage 4, by reference to the amount of the assessment, plus 2% of the assessment
6 From the issue of the certificate under section 94 of the Act to finalisation of the matter by settlement or an award of damages	The amount determined in stage 5 plus 2% of the settlement or award

Table B

Column 1	Column 2
Stage	Costs
1 Advice on the issue of the certificate under section 94 of the Act	\$250
2 From the giving of the advice on the certificate issued under section 94 of the Act to finalisation of matter by settlement or award of damages	In addition to the \$250 specified for stage 1: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) if the settlement amount or award is \$20,000 or less—nil (b) if the settlement amount or award is more than \$20,000 but less than \$50,001—10% of the settlement amount or award over \$2,000 (c) if the settlement amount or award is \$50,001 or more but less than \$100,001—\$3,000 plus 8% of every dollar of the settlement amount or award over \$50,000 (d) if the settlement amount or award is \$100,001 or more—\$7,000 plus 2% of every dollar of the settlement amount or award over \$100,000

2 Other costs for legal services

- (1) Maximum costs for legal services provided in motor accidents matters may include (in addition to the costs for legal services provided for a stage in the matter, as referred to in clause 1) the costs set out in the Table to this clause.
- (2) However, an amount for the fees for senior counsel, or for more than one advocate, are not to be included unless the court so orders.

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Schedule 1 Maximum costs for legal services

Table

Nature of costs	Maximum costs
Costs associated with a medical dispute under Part 3.4 of the Act, as allowed by the claims assessor	(a) up to \$250 if the dispute relates to the matter referred to in section 58 (1) (a) of the Act (b) up to \$500 if the dispute relates to a matter referred to in section 58 (1) (b), (c) or (e) of the Act (c) up to \$750 if the dispute relates to the matter referred to in section 58 (1) (d) of the Act but not exceeding \$1,200 in respect of any one claim, regardless of the number or kind of disputes
Costs associated with a dispute referred to in section 96 of the Act, as allowed by the claims assessor	up to \$600 in respect of any one claim, regardless of the number or kind of disputes
Cost of representation at an assessment conference under section 104 of the Act:	
(a) flat fee	\$400
(b) additional amount, at the claims assessor's discretion, if the conference exceeds 2 hours	up to \$125 per hour for each hour (or part of an hour) in excess of 2 hours
Cost of representation in court, per day:	
(a) advocate other than senior counsel	\$1,500
(b) senior counsel	\$2,200
Cost of conference, per hour (or part of an hour)	\$125

3 Country loadings

- (1) An advocate whose principal chambers or offices are in the Sydney Metropolitan area is entitled, in respect of proceedings heard or partially heard in a town outside that area, to a loading for that town in accordance with the Table to this clause. If proceedings take place at two or more towns outside that area, the loading payable is that appropriate to the town that is the farther or farthest from those chambers or offices.
- (2) An advocate whose principal chambers or offices are in a town outside the Sydney Metropolitan area is entitled, in respect of proceedings heard or partially heard in the Sydney Metropolitan area, to a loading for that town in accordance with the Table to this clause.
- (3) An advocate whose principal chambers or offices are in a town outside the Sydney Metropolitan area is entitled, in respect of proceedings heard or partially heard at another such town, to a loading for that other town in accordance with the Table to this clause. If proceedings take place at two or more towns outside that area, the loading payable is that appropriate to the town that is the farther or farthest from those chambers or offices.
- (4) For the purposes of this clause, if a town is not included in the Table to this clause, the loading for that town is to be the loading for the nearest town that is so included.
- (5) If an advocate holds more than one brief in respect of proceedings heard at a place on any one day and a loading is applicable under this item, the loading is to be divided equally between those briefs in respect of which an advocate's fees are awarded or payable.

Table

Town	Loading \$	Town	Loading \$
Albury	723	Kempsey	629
Armidale	663	Lismore	658
Bateman's Bay	662	Lithgow	273

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Schedule 1 Maximum costs for legal services

Town	Loading \$	Town	Loading \$
Bathurst	525	Maitland (including East Maitland)	411
Bega	799	Moree	616
Bourke	1141	Moruya	516
Broken Hill	1232	Moss Vale	284
Campbelltown	63	Mudgee	490
Casino	745	Murwillumbah	761
Cessnock	411	Muswellbrook	436
Cobar	1049	Narrabri	572
Coffs Harbour	584	Narrandera	568
Condobolin	889	Newcastle	411
Cooma	882	Nowra	411
Coonamble	850	Nyngan	977
Cootamundra	603	Orange	468
Cowra	464	Parkes	633
Deniliquin	777	Penrith	63
Dubbo	615	Port Macquarie	530
Forbes	615	Queanbeyan	526
Glen Innes	584	Singleton	632
Gosford	176	Tamworth	613
Goulburn	434	Taree	490
Grafton	715	Tweed Heads	714

Town	Loading \$	Town	Loading \$
Griffith	588	Wagga Wagga	544
Gundagai	690	Wentworth	1154
Gunnedah	680	Wollongong	260
Hay	761	Yass	463
Inverell	683	Young	603
Katoomba	239		

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Schedule 2 Maximum fees for medico-legal services

Schedule 2 Maximum fees for medico-legal services

(Clause 13)

Appearances as witnesses	\$
1 Medical practitioners and other medical professionals called to give evidence other than expert evidence, per hour (or proportionately if not for a full hour) to a maximum of \$390	195
2 Medical practitioners and other medical professionals called to give expert evidence:	
(a) for the first one and a half hours (including time travelling to the Court from the medical professional's home, hospital, place of practice, office or other place and return to that place from the Court)	454
(b) for every full hour after the first hour and a half (or proportionately if not for a full hour)	195
to a maximum of \$1,623	
3 Travelling allowance in connection with appearance as witness	0.30 per kilometre
4 Accommodation and meals in connection with appearance as witness	reasonable costs
Medical reports	
5 Report (in the form, if any, provided for in the MAA Medical Guidelines) made by an attending general practitioner:	
(a) if a re-examination of the patient is not required	97
(b) if a re-examination of the patient is required	146

6	Report (in the form, if any, provided for in the MAA Medical Guidelines) made by an attending specialist:	
(a)	if a re-examination of the patient is not required	195
(b)	if a re-examination of the patient is required	260
7	Report (in the form, if any, provided for in the MAA Medical Guidelines) made by a specialist who has not previously treated the patient:	
(a)	if an examination of the patient is not required	260–325
(b)	if an examination of the patient is required	297–540 (depending, in both cases, on the complexity of the matter, the number of documents to be studied and the amount of research required)
8	Charges for copying medical reports	0.50 per page
Cancellation fee		
9	Fee if appearance or medical report is not required	No more than 50% of the relevant amount specified in this Table

BY AUTHORITY