

MEDICAL PANELS – Expression of Interest

Calling for Expressions of Interest

Medical Panels is committed to ensuring an inclusive and diverse environment that recognises, respects and supports its workforce. Medical Panels is now calling for Expression of Interests from experienced medical practitioners from various specialties (see below) who have sound clinical, analytical and communication skills that may be interested in joining the List of Practitioners Eligible for Appointment to a Medical Panel (the List) or contributing expertise as a Consultant to a Medical Panel.

Cardiology	Immunology and Allergy	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	Psychiatry
Cardio-Thoracic Surgery	Infectious Diseases	Ophthalmology	Psychiatry (Child Psychiatry)
Dermatology	Medical Oncology	Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery	Public Health Medicine
Endocrinology	Musculoskeletal Medicine	Orthopaedic Surgery	Rehabilitation Medicine
Gastroenterology & Hepatology	Nephrology	Otolaryngology	Respiratory & Sleep Medicine
General Medicine	Neurology	Paediatrics & Child Health (Paediatric Neurology)	Rheumatology
General Practice	Neurosurgery	Pain Management	Urology
General Surgery	Occupational & Environmental Medicine	Plastic Surgery	Vascular Surgery

Information Sessions

Information sessions about Medical Panels will be held at our office in La Trobe St Melbourne on:

- Saturday 24 August 2019 10:30am – 12pm
- Thursday 5 September 2019 5:00pm – 6:30pm

To secure your spot please:

Email: recruitment@medicalpanels.vic.gov.au

Call: Jenny Dobell on (03) 8256 1512 or Tracey Egan on (03) 8256 1509

Information about Medical Panels

What does a Medical Panel do?

The members of a Medical Panel work together on a referral to provide medical opinions in two areas of Victorian law, workers' compensation, and personal injury compensation claims covered by the *Wrongs Act 1958*.

The opinion of a Medical Panel must be accepted as final and conclusive by any court, body or person. It can profoundly affect the parties involved. For example, workers' compensation payments can be varied or terminated, entitlements for medical and like services can be restored or revoked, and non-economic loss claims can be eliminated.

Key Data 2018-19

Operating Budget \$20M (approximately)

Total Referrals: 4,290

Appointments: approximately 5,500

Finalised Opinions & Determinations: 3,900

Medical Panel Member Role and Responsibilities

Members are nominated to individual Medical Panels because of their medical expertise, ability to comprehensively analyse medical information and effectively communicate the reasons for their opinion (decision).

Members work collaboratively in multi-disciplinary teams to answer medical questions. In order to do this, Members are expected to:

- conduct a medical examination (if required), contribute to written reports and actively collaborate with other members to influence and form a comprehensive written document communicating the collective opinion and reasons for the opinion
- bring an understanding of, or commitment to learning about, medico legal issues, and collaborate effectively through a web-based document management platform, to produce a legally binding document
- attend an induction and development programs
- complete appropriate medico-legal education including the approved training to conduct impairment assessments in accordance with the AMA Guidelines to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment.

Who can be nominated to a Medical Panel?

The Convenor nominates members to each Medical Panel from the List. Each Medical Panel is independent and functions as a tribunal.

The composition of each Medical Panel is based on the nature of the dispute taking into consideration the type of injuries and questions asked. Given the composition of a Medical Panel is dependent on the cases referred, some specialities may be appointed to Medical Panels more frequently than others. Medical Panel consultations and / or examinations take place in Melbourne on a sessional basis. Car parking is provided and public transport is within walking distance.

Selection criteria for eligible medical practitioners

The following criteria are applicable for medical practitioners seeking appointment to the List:

1. A registered medical practitioner with a minimum of five years of specialty practice supported by a description of years in specialty and/or subspecialty, evidence of fellowship and continuing education in the chosen specialty
2. Completion of (preferred) or enrolment in, the approved training to conduct impairment assessments in accordance with *the AMA Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment (4th Edit.)*
3. Ability to demonstrate good reputation, expertise and standing within the medical profession detailing appointments/positions held and/or published research
4. Demonstrated ability to work harmoniously within multidisciplinary teams
5. Satisfy standard mandatory probity checks

Remuneration

Medical Panel members are entitled to payment for each referral at rates approved by the Victorian Government. The current Schedule of Fees and Costs from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 is listed below. Fees and Costs are reviewed annually and increases are gazetted.

Declaring Private Interests

It is critical that the members of each Medical Panel are impartial and have no conflicting private, professional or other interest in, or connection to, any of the parties involved in a referral. Upon appointment and yearly thereafter appointees are required to complete a declaration which will enable Medical Panels to manage any conflicts that may arise.

Gazetted Fees and Costs

Medical Panels - Schedule of Fees and Costs - 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020			
Service	Description of Service	Matter complexity level (as determined by the Convenor)	Fees 2019-2020 (excl GST)
Presiding Member - WIRCA and WA			
Standard or Complex Referral	For all work associated with any one referral of a standard or complex nature, of a medical question or questions. Payment is dependent on the level of contribution and complexity required, as determined by the Convenor	1	\$ 1,270.00
		2	\$ 1,890.00
		3	\$ 2,310.00
		4	\$ 2,730.00
		5	\$ 3,150.00
Cancellation/Fail to Attend	Cancellation within four (4) working days of examination or claimant non-attendance		\$ 525.00
Panel Abandoned	Panel abandoned during or after commencement of the examination		75% of allocated fee
Member/Consultant - WIRCA and WA			
Standard or Complex Referral	For all work associated with any one referral of a standard or complex nature, of a medical question or questions. Payment is dependent on the level of contribution and complexity required, as determined by the Convenor	1	\$ 870.00
		2	\$ 1,050.00
		3	\$ 1,470.00
Cancellation/Fail to Attend	Cancellation within four (4) working days of examination or claimant non-attendance		\$ 420.00
Panel Abandoned	Panel abandoned during or after commencement of the examination		75% of allocated fee
Member/Consultant - Specialist Psychiatry - WIRCA and WA			
Neuro Psych	All work associated with specialist Neuro-Psychiatry examination		\$ 1,680.00
Child Psychiatry	All work associated with specialist Child-Psychiatry examination		\$ 1,680.00
Other - WIRCA and WA			
Hourly rate	Work performed at the request of the Convenor that is not otherwise remunerated under this Schedule		\$ 420.00
Investigations	Cost of medical investigations and/or reports requested by the Medical Panel		At cost
Interpreter	Interpreting costs for each examination or cancellation due to claimant non-attendance		At cost
Other - Workplace Injury Rehabilitation Compensation Act 2013 only			
Additional Referral/ Supplementary - Presiding Member	Any work that arises from the submission of a supplementary question(s) for an existing referral which doesn't require an additional examination.		\$ 425.00
Additional Referral/ Supplementary - Member/ Consultant	Any work that arises from the submission of a supplementary question(s) for an existing referral which doesn't require an additional examination.		\$ 210.00
Worksite assessment	Worksite assessment, inclusive of all reasonable travelling expenses - within 50km of Medical Panelist's normal place of practice		\$ 860.00