



APS National Schedule of Recommended Fees *(not incl. GST)* and Item Numbers* for Psychological Services

The Recommended Fee Schedule in place from 1 July 2007 until 30 June 2008

SERVICE DESCRIPTION		Service Time (minutes) ¹						
		1-15	16-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76-90	91-120 ²
Initial Consultation	Item Number*	I01	I02	I03	I04	I05	I06	I07
	Recommended Fee		\$106	\$146	\$192	\$236	\$278	\$361
Subsequent Consultation	Item Number	SO1 ³	SO2	SO3	SO4	SO5	SO6	SO7
	Recommended Fee	\$53	\$106	\$146	\$192	\$236	\$278	\$361
Psychological Assessment⁴	Item Number	PA1	PA2	PA3	PA4	PA5	PA6	PA7
	Recommended Fee		\$106	\$146	\$192	\$236	\$278	\$361
Clinical Psychological Assessment⁵	Item Number	CA1	CA2	CA3	CA4	CA5	CA6	CA7
	Recommended Fee		\$106	\$146	\$192	\$236	\$278	\$361
Neuropsychological Assessment⁶	Item Number	NA1	NA2	NA3	NA4	NA5	NA6	NA7
	Recommended Fee		\$106	\$146	\$192	\$236	\$278	\$361
Report Preparation⁷	Item Number	RO1	RO2	RO3	RO4	RO5	RO6	RO7
	Recommended Fee		\$106	\$146	\$192	\$236	\$278	\$361
Case Conference⁸	Item Number	CO1	CO2	CO3	CO4	CO5	CO6	CO7
	Recommended Fee	\$53	\$106	\$146	\$192	\$236	\$278	\$361
Telephone Consultation	Item Number	PO1	PO2	PO3	PO4	PO5	PO6	PO7
	Recommended Fee	\$53	\$106	\$146	\$192	\$236	\$278	\$361
Travel Time	Item Number	TO1	TO2	TO3	TO4	TO5	TO6	TO7
	Recommended Fee	\$38	\$63	\$95	\$127	\$158	\$190	\$222
Family or Other Group (of 2 Clients)	Item Number	F21	F22	F23	F24	F25	F26	F27
	Recommended Fee		\$53	\$73	\$96	\$118	\$139	\$180
Family or Other Group (of 3 to 4 clients)	Item Number	F31	F32	F33	F34	F35	F36	F37
	Recommended Fee		\$35	\$49	\$64	\$79	\$93	\$120
Family or Other Group (of 5 or more clients)	Item Number	F51	F52	F53	F54	F55	F56	F57
	Recommended Fee		\$21	\$29	\$38	\$47	\$56	\$72
Attendance⁹ at Court or Legal Briefings¹³	Item Number	LO1 ¹⁰	LO2	LO3 ¹¹	LO4	LO5	LO6	LO7 ¹²
	Recommended Fee		\$192	\$219	\$288	\$354	\$418	\$541

Disclaimer: These fees are recommended only. Members are able to vary these fees at their discretion. For explanations of the notated numbers from 1 to 13, please see opposite page.

*These item numbers are not to be confused with the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) item numbers

Notes and guidelines on the application of the APS NATIONAL SCHEDULE OF RECOMMENDED FEES (not including GST) and Item Numbers for Psychological Services

Please ensure that your clients are aware of your fees prior to entering into a professional relationship with you.

Guidelines for preparation of accounts**

The account should show:

- A. Your Provider Number
(if relevant, as issued by the relevant fund)
- B. These words: Consultation:
Date:
Item Number:
Name(s) of person(s) seen:
In order to avoid confusion, you are advised not to show any further detailed description of the service provided, as the Item Number indicates this.***
- C. Australian Psychological Society Recommended Fee (according to Item number): \$.....
- D. Agreed Payable Fee (as negotiated with the client(s) and if different from the recommended fee): \$.....

Cancellation Fees**

Fees for cancellation of appointments made for psychological services can be justified if no replacement service is billed for the lost time. Your policy for the charging of cancellation fees should be discussed with the patient/client or the service requestor. Written information detailing your policy on cancellations should be available for clients/referring agencies, eg. printed information sheet or detailed on appointment cards. The following is a general guideline only. In the instance of a 46–60 minute service:

- 0–24 hours notice 'Full fee'
- 24–48 hours notice 50% of fee
- 48 hours -7 days notice 25% of fee

Prepared by the APS Professional Practice Advisory Group.

The Advisory Group welcomes feedback on the National Schedule. Submissions and comments may be forwarded to the APS National Office.

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** Medicare Australia has its own requirements and procedures for accounts which you should be familiar with if providing services under the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS). These are set out on the APS website under Medicare.

*** Some health funds are requesting inclusion of diagnostic information on accounts. You should only include this information where there has been an explicit arrangement between the health fund and clients. If this is part of their contractual arrangement, you may be obliged to include such details. Otherwise, it may contravene confidentiality requirements. If these items parallel Medicare Australia rebatable items but the client chooses to claim against their health fund, including the words "not being claimed under Medicare" may assist client claims.

1. These fees are calculated on the assumption of 66% productivity – one hour of billable time will involve an additional average of half an hour of associated non-billable professional time (e.g., referral source letters, phone calls, test scoring etc.). This productivity ratio is assumed to decrease slightly for items of less than 46 minutes and increase slightly for items over 60 minutes.
2. The fee rate for services estimated to be of more than 2 hours in duration should be negotiated with the client or referral source.
3. This item is only used for brief client contact related to ongoing management/treatment (e.g., brief client consultation, ward round etc.). Note that this item is not considered appropriate for writing letters to referral sources, phone calls, etc. which are considered non-billable items (refer to footnote 1).
4. Time spent on face-to-face client interview or testing of intellectual, personality, interests or other capacities or traits for the purpose of educational, vocational or other assessment or guidance.
5. Time spent on face-to-face interview or testing by an appropriately qualified psychologist for purpose of assessment or diagnosis of psychopathology. Note that it is the ethical responsibility of the psychologist only to provide services that are within the limits of the psychologist's area of training and competence.
6. Time spent on face-to-face interview or testing by an appropriately qualified psychologist for purpose of assessment of brain functioning. Note that it is the ethical responsibility of the psychologist only to provide services that are within the limits of the psychologist's area of training and competence.
7. A report is a psychological service that is directly requested by the referring agency or client. Thus reports prepared for clients are usually done so on the basis of explicit written consent from the client or legal guardian. A report is a structured presentation typically including such components as relevant psychosocial history, history of presenting issues, present condition, test results, opinion and intervention recommendations. Professional letters to medical or other referral agencies concerning treatment needs of the client are not considered to constitute reports (refer to footnote 1). For clients requesting reports, it is the responsibility of the psychologist to clarify the procedures and costs involved prior to report preparation. For extended reports, it is the responsibility of the psychologist to negotiate fee arrangements with

the referring agency prior to preparation of the report. Note that report preparation time is inclusive of relevant file and document review.

General guidelines for report length and item numbers:

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|-----------------|--|
| RO2 = 1 page* | brief supplementary reports e.g., request for elaboration on a previously submitted report |
| RO3 = 1-2 pages | short report |
| RO4 = 2-3 pages | short report |
| RO5 = 3-4 pages | standard report |
| RO6 = 4-5 pages | standard report |
| RO7 = 5-6 pages | extended |

* A4 single-spaced, typed, full page, excluding spaced preamble or other non-text material

(This guideline is not to be interpreted rigidly and report length and charging arrangements may vary according to the specific requirements of the requesting agency).

8. A Case Conference is a consultation between professionals and others who are directly involved in the provision of services to the same client.
9. Attendance includes waiting time and provision of testimony.
10. The recommended rate for attendance at Court for any time less than one hour is \$192.
11. Times for these services are based on 1.5 x APS recommended fee, to take into account the additional complexity, intensity and disruption of this service.
12. For prolonged attendance items of more than two hours, each additional and consecutive hour after the initial two hours may be charged at the rate of \$288.00 per hour (1.5 x APS recommended fee) or by negotiation.
13. Travel time to/from Court or briefings as per Travel items TO1–TO6. Travel times of more than two hours are by arrangement. Motor vehicle travel in excess of 2 hours may incur the additional cost of 67 cents/ per km travelled. Air travel to be business class fare and insurance; accommodation at minimum of 4 star hotel and breakfast.

In general, on this schedule, where no fee is listed (as with many '1' codes) it is assumed that the relevant '2' item code applies or a time-based proportion of the recommended fee.