

# Premium Support Scheme (PSS) and Statutory Declaration Information Sheet

## About the Premium Support Scheme

The Premium Support Scheme (PSS) has been established by the Australian Government to provide financial assistance to eligible doctors with their medical indemnity premiums. You must apply separately for each year that you wish to be assessed for eligibility.

For full details regarding the Scheme, please refer to the PSS Information Guide, which is available on our website [mdanational.com.au](http://mdanational.com.au) or by contacting our Member Services team on 1800 011 255.

## Will I be eligible for the PSS?

Subject to the terms and conditions of the PSS, you are eligible if one of the following applies:

- your Gross Indemnity Costs for a Premium Period exceed 7.5% of your Estimated Income
- your Gross Indemnity Costs for a Premium Period exceed 7.5% of your Actual Private Practice Income
- you are a procedural General Practitioner practising in a rural area (defined as MMM 3-7)
- if you work only in the public sector, thereby earning no income from private practice, but have a contract of insurance which provides run-off cover, retroactive cover or both for incidents that occurred in connection with past private medical practice<sup>#</sup>
- you previously received a subsidy under the Australian Government's Medical Indemnity Subsidy Scheme (MISS) and have continued to work in the same specialty.

Note: If you work primarily in the public sector but obtain medical indemnity cover for private healthcare services (which are not indemnified under a right to private practice agreement) for which income is received, you may still be eligible for the PSS.

<sup>#</sup>This does not include an insurance contract which only provides cover for medico-legal costs and/or damages in respect of gratuitous services.

## When am I not eligible for the PSS?

You are not eligible if:

- Your Actual Private Practice Income is less than \$1,000

- Your run-off cover costs, if any, are capped at \$50
- You are eligible for the Run-Off Cover Scheme (ROCS)
- You have practised outside Australia for a period of six months or more within the Premium Period<sup>^</sup>

<sup>^</sup>Your overseas practice will not affect your eligibility if it involves treatment of Australian citizens or residents while on a sporting, cultural or official tour, or any aid work undertaken outside Australia.

## Consequences of providing false information on a Statutory Declaration

A person who intentionally makes a false statement in a Statutory Declaration is guilty of an offence, the punishment for which is imprisonment for a term of four years (see Section 11 of the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959*).

Chapter 2 of the Criminal Code applies to all offences against the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959* (see Section 5A of the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959*).

## Actual Private Practice Income

Actual Private Practice Income, for the purpose of the PSS, is defined as the total of all billings generated by you from your provision of private healthcare services for which you require medical indemnity cover for a Premium Period including, without limitation:

- Medicare benefits
- payments by individuals, the Commonwealth Department of Veterans' Affairs, workers' compensation schemes and third party and/or vehicle insurers and
- income earned for medical practice overseas if your contract of insurance covers any overseas practice.

This is whether these amounts are retained by you or otherwise and before any apportionment or deduction of any expenses and/or tax.

In addition, if as part of your medical practice you derive income from any other sources (such as professional fees and incentive payments) this income must be included in the declaration of Actual Private Practice Income.

Finally, where for a Premium Period you generate billings from the provision of both private and public medical services, your Actual Private Practice Income should be limited to the income that relates to the provision of private healthcare services for which medical indemnity cover is not provided by the public sector organisation.

## Gross Indemnity Costs

Gross Indemnity Costs means, for a Premium Period, costs charged to you, or for which you are liable, comprising any:

- premium for medical indemnity cover in respect of private medical services
- MDO Membership subscription
- costs payable for retroactive or run-off cover and
- 50% of any risk surcharge charged to you (excluding procedural General Practitioners practising in a MMM 3-7).

Gross Indemnity Costs does not include:

- GST
- stamp duty
- capital calls
- excess payments or deductibles
- charges imposed by an insurer for late payment of any of these costs (including the premium)
- costs for previous Premium Periods except the costs of retroactive or run-off cover
- late payment penalties under the *Medical Indemnity Act 2002* ('Cth')
- any amount of premium for a policy that primarily covers the employees of a medical practitioner or an entity that runs a medical practice (being a company, partnership or other entity).

## Non Therapeutic Cosmetic Procedures

Non Therapeutic Cosmetic Procedure means a procedure that is cosmetic in nature and is NOT a professional service mentioned in the general medical services table under the *Health Insurance Act 1973* (Cth) (i.e. procedures NOT claimable under Medicare) or a health service specified under subsection 3C(1) of that Act.

## Persons before whom a Statutory Declaration may be made

This information is correct effective 10 October 2019 and is subject to change. For more information please refer to Schedule 2, Regulation 4 of the *Statutory Declarations Regulations 2018*.

Part 1: Occupations		
Architect	Midwife	Pharmacist
Chiropractor	Migration agent registered under Division 3 of Part 3 of the <i>Migration Act 1958</i>	Physiotherapist
Dentist	Nurse	Psychologist
Financial advisor or financial planner	Occupational Therapist	Trade Marks attorney
Legal practitioner	Optometrist	Veterinary Surgeon
Medical practitioner	Patent attorney	

Part 2: Other Persons		
Accountant who is: a) a fellow of the National Tax Accountants' Association; or b) a member of any of the following: i) Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand; ii) the Association of Taxation and Management Accountants; iii) CPA Australia; iv) the Institute of Public Accountants	Employee of the Commonwealth who is: a) in a country or place outside Australia; and b) authorised under paragraph 3 (c) of the <i>Consular Fees Act 1955</i> ; and c) exercising his or her function in that place	Member of: a) the Parliament of the Commonwealth b) the Parliament of a State c) a Territory legislature d) a local government authority of a State or Territory
Agent of the Australian Postal Corporation who is in charge of an office supplying postal services to the public	Engineer who is: a) a member of Engineers Australia, other than at the grade of student; or b) a Registered Professional Engineer of Professionals Australia; or c) registered as an Engineer under a law of the Commonwealth, a State or Territory; or d) registered on the National Engineering Register by Engineers Australia	Minister of religion registered under Subdivision A of Division 1 of Part IV of the <i>Marriage Act 1961</i>
Australian Consular Officer or Australian Diplomatic Officer (within the meaning of the <i>Consular Fees Act 1955</i> )	Finance company officer with 5 or more years of continuous service	Notary public
Bailiff	Holder of a statutory office not specified in another item in this Part	Permanent employee of the Australian Postal Corporation with 5 or more years of continuous service who is employed in an office supplying postal services to the public
Bank officer with 5 or more continuous years of service	Judge	Permanent employee of: a) a State or Territory or a State or Territory authority b) a local government authority; with 5 or more years of continuous service who is not specified in another item in this Part
Building society officer with 5 or more years of continuous service	Justice of the Peace	Person before whom a statutory declaration may be made under the law of the State or Territory in which the declaration is made
Chief Executive Officer of a Commonwealth court	Magistrate	Police officer
Clerk of a court	Marriage celebrant registered under Subdivision C of Division 1 of Part IV of the <i>Marriage Act 1961</i>	Registrar, or Deputy Registrar, of a court
Commissioner for Affidavits	Master of a court	Senior Executive employee of: a) the Commonwealth or a Commonwealth authority b) a State or Territory or a State or Territory authority
Commissioner for Declarations	Member of the Australian Defence Force who is: a) an officer; or b) a non-commissioned officer within the meaning of the <i>Defence Force Discipline Act 1982</i> with 5 or more years of continuous service; or c) a warrant officer within the meaning of that Act	SES employee of the Commonwealth
Credit union officer with 5 or more years of continuous service	Member of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy	Sheriff
Employee of a Commonwealth authority who is engaged on a permanent basis with 5 or more years of continuous service who is not specified in another item in this Part	Member of the Governance Institute of Australia Ltd	Sheriff's officer
Employee of the Australian Trade and Investment Commission who is: a) in a country or place outside Australia; and b) authorised under paragraph 3 (d) of the <i>Consular Fees Act 1955</i> ; and c) exercising his or her function in that place		Teacher employed on a full-time basis at a school or tertiary education institution