

SAPS Injury Management Practice Note

Interim Benefits

Objectives, Targets & Performance Indicators

Objective	Target	Performance Indicator
Interim benefits are offered when a claim is unable to be determined within 10 business days	All SAPS agencies.	Evidence on SIMS/claim file interim benefits offered

Purpose

To ensure consistent application of the provisions of the Return to Work Act 2014 (the Act), with regard to the payment of interim benefits by South Australian Public Sector (SAPS) agencies.

Context

The Act provides:

Interim benefits under Part 4 may be made, pending final determination of the claim	Section 32 (1)
Interim benefits must be offered if the claim is not determined within 10 business days after receipt of the claim	Section 32 (2)
Interim payments may be recovered if it is determined that the claimant was not entitled to the amount paid	Section 32 (3)
The power and discretions with respect to interim benefits are delegated to SAPS agencies as self-insured employers	Section 134
The financial benefits potentially payable under Part 4 relate to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Medical Expenses○ Property Damage○ Income Support○ Redemptions○ Permanent Impairment – economic and non-economic loss○ Payments on Death	Part 4 Division 2 Division 3 Division 4 Division 5 Division 6 & 7 Division 8

The Act and regulations are silent on the type and extent of interim benefits that must be offered, and the Act does not identify decisions with regard to interim benefits as reviewable decisions (section 97).

Recovery and return to work services may be provided to a worker even if it has not been established that the worker has suffered a work injury.

SAPS Practice

If a claim is unable to be determined with ten business days of receipt of the claim, as a minimum, the following will be offered as interim benefits by SAPS agencies:

Income benefits	Weekly payments equivalent to the rate at which the injured worker's average weekly earnings may be set
Medical benefits	Medical payment for 'medical services' as defined in Section 4 (i.e. attendance, examination or treatment by a health practitioner (including the obtaining of a certificate or report); any diagnostic examination or test for the purposes of treatment) by a health practitioner. Hospitalisation and all associated medical, surgical and nursing services.

In determining additional interim medical benefits, agencies should take into consideration whether the expenses will support return to work recovery.

In all cases, at the time interim benefits are offered, injured workers are to be advised of the potential for recovery of the amounts paid, if it is determined there was no entitlement.