



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Scott Simpson	Portfolio	ACC
Title of Cabinet paper	Updates to Accident Compensation Regulatory Settings	Date to be published	3 July 2025

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
June 2025	<i>Updates to Accident Compensation Regulatory Settings</i>	<i>Office of the Minister for ACC</i>
4 June 2025	<i>SOU-25-MIN-0065 Minute</i>	<i>Cabinet Office</i>
28 May 2025	<i>Regulatory Impact Statement: Updates to Hearing Assessment Regulations</i>	<i>MBIE</i>

Information redacted

YES / NO

Any information redacted in this document is redacted in accordance with MBIE's policy on Proactive Release and is labelled with the reason for redaction. This may include information that would be redacted if this information was requested under Official Information Act 1982. Where this is the case, the reasons for withholding information are listed below. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.



Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Updates to Accident Compensation Regulatory Settings

Portfolio ACC

On 4 June 2025, the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee:

List of occupational diseases

- 1 **noted** that the Minister for ACC (the Minister) has fulfilled the requirements under section 336(2) of the Accident Compensation Act 2001 (the Act) to only make recommendations to amend Schedule 2 (the list of occupational diseases) after consulting the persons or organisations that he considers appropriate;
- 2 **agreed** to add twelve additional illnesses to Schedule 2 of the Act, as outlined in paragraph 9 of the submission under SOU-25-SUB-0065;

Review Costs Regulations

- 3 **agreed** to simplify the cost categories in Schedule 1 of the Accident Compensation (Review Costs and Appeals) Regulations 2002 (the Review Costs Regulations) down from fourteen to three;
- 4 **agreed** to increase the maximum reimbursement rates in Cost Category One – Representation Costs, and have these be expressed in a cost matrix according to the complexity/time involved in each case and the qualifications of the representative used;
- 5 **agreed** to the following updates to the Review Costs Regulations:
 - 5.1 define how ‘lawyers’ and ‘complex case’ are to be captured in these Regulations to help assess which rates should apply in the cost matrix under Cost Category One;
 - 5.2 increase the maximum reimbursement rate for Cost Category Two – Medical and other reports to \$4,150 (from \$1,636.26);
 - 5.3 increase the maximum reimbursement rate for Cost Category Three to \$1,500 (from \$681.77);
 - 5.4 remove the specified mileage rate, which has a maximum reimbursement rate of \$178.78;
 - 5.5 remove the distinction between registered specialists and other person with a recognised qualification;

Hearing Assessment Regulations

- 6 **noted** that the Minister has fulfilled the requirements under section 323(2) of the Act to only make a recommendation to amend the Accident Insurance (Occupational Hearing Assessment Procedures) Regulations 1999 (the Hearing Assessment Regulations) after consulting the persons or organisations he considers appropriate;
- 7 **noted** that the Minister will instruct the Parliamentary Counsel Office to update the name of the Hearing Assessment Regulations to “Accident Compensation (Occupational Hearing Assessment Procedures) Regulations 1999”, to align with the name of the primary legislation;
- 8 **agreed** to the following updates to the Hearing Assessment Regulations:
- 8.1 update the age scale used in the Hearing Assessment Regulations to the new international standard (ISO 7029:2017);
 - 8.2 update the reference to audiometric test methods to the latest standard (ISO 8253.1-2010);
 - 8.3 remove the reference to tests conducted by otolaryngologists in Regulations 4 and 6 of the Hearing Assessment Regulations;
 - 8.4 correct minor drafting errors relating to how ages are expressed in the age scale;

Ancillary Services Regulations

- 9 **agreed** to the following updates to the Accident Compensation (Ancillary Services) Regulations 2002:
- 9.1 increase the travel reimbursement rate to \$0.34 per kilometre (from \$0.29 per kilometre);
 - 9.2 increase the accommodation rate to \$140 per night (from \$57.55 per night);
 - 9.3 introduce a rate for staying with family and friends at \$35 per night;

Drafting instructions

- 10 **authorised** the Minister for ACC to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to give effect to the decisions above;
- 11 **authorised** the Minister for ACC to make decisions and further clarify matters consistent with the decisions under SOU-25-MIN-0065 on any issues which may arise during the drafting process.

Jenny Vickers
Committee Secretary

Hard-copy distribution: (see over)

Present:

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Nicola Willis
Hon Chris Bishop
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston (Chair)
Hon Mark Mitchell
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Matt Doocey
Hon Nicole McKee
Hon Casey Costello
Hon Karen Chhour
Hon Nicola Grigg
Hon Scott Simpson

Officials present from:

Officials Committee for SOU