

## Rural Doctors' Settlement Package Hospitals Indexation of Fees – Visiting Medical Officers

**Summary** The Rural Doctors' Settlement Package (RDSP) is a scheme which provides additional payments as an incentive for Visiting Medical Officers (VMOs) to practice in rural hospitals. This Information Bulletin sets out the schedule of RDSP fees effective from 1 August 2025.

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**Applies to** Local Health Districts, Specialty Network Governed Statutory Health Corporations, NSW Health Pathology, Public Health System Support Division, Public Hospitals

**Distributed to** Ministry of Health, Public Health System, Health Associations Unions

**Audience** Visiting Medical Officers;Medical Administration

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### Purpose

This Information Bulletin sets out the schedule of Rural Doctors' Settlement Package (RDSP) fees effective from 1 August 2025.

Fees under the RDSP are indexed from 1 August each year according to an agreed formula. All Settlement Package fees have been adjusted by 4.05% effective from 1 August 2025.

This Information Bulletin must be read in conjunction with the NSW Health Information Bulletin *Rural Doctors' Settlement Package Clarifications Reference Guide* ([IB2024\\_021](#)).

### Key Information

Updates have been made to reflect indexation as of 1 August 2025.

Hyperlinks to the relevant item number description in the NSW Health Information Bulletin *Rural Doctors' Settlement Package Clarifications Reference Guide* ([IB2024\\_021](#)) have been added in the clarifications reference column of the *2025/26 Rural Doctors Settlement Package Rates*.

Any items not listed in the *2025/26 Rural Doctors Settlement Package Rates* are to be paid at the rate of 140% of the current Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) fee.

### Implementation

Chief Executives are to ensure:

- The *2025/26 Rural Doctors Settlement Package Rates* is applied in accordance with this Information Bulletin to Visiting Medical Officers (VMOs) who provide services under RDSP arrangements.
- This Information Bulletin is made available to and implemented by the staff responsible for managing and processing payments under the RDSP.

### Discounting of Delayed Claims

Delayed claims will be discounted as follows:

- After 12 months from the date a service was provided, the value of a claim can be discounted by 50%, subject to the Local Health District having provided 28 days' notice to the VMO that a discount of 50% will apply if a claim is not received.
- After 24 months from the date a service was provided, no payment is owing in respect of the service, subject to the Local Health District having provided 28 days' notice to the VMO that no payment will be made if a claim is not received.

Applications to submit claims later than these time limits without any, or with a lesser, discount can be made in writing (including electronically) to the relevant Local Health District within 4 weeks from the date of receipt of discount notice if there are exceptional circumstances (such as serious illness of the VMO). The Local Health District has the discretion on how to deal with such applications.

If a VMO is dissatisfied with the decision of the Local Health District, the dispute resolution procedure may be invoked.

### **Penalty for late payment**

Should the Local Health District fail to make payment to the RDSP VMO after 90 days of receiving an account for payment, interest shall accrue on the outstanding account, from the date of the receipt of the account, at the Supreme Court interest rate applicable at the time. This interest payment would not necessarily apply where the dispute procedure has been invoked.

### **Attachments**

1. [2025/26 Rural Doctors' Settlement Package Rates](#)