

WA POLICE
**COMPENSATION
SCHEME**

Requesting an Assessment

The Police Commissioner has made the decision you should be medically retired. He is currently in the process of seeking support from the Police Minister. It is at this time we provide you with further information regarding the Police Compensation Scheme, and in particular, permanent impairment.

Approved Medical Specialists (AMS) providers are specialists who have undertaken further qualifications to become an AMS for the purposes of impairment assessments. You have been provided with a list of AMS providers that are approved to undertake your assessment. The list is sorted according to specialised areas of expertise.

In accordance with the email you have received advising of the Commissioner's decision and inclusive of this information sheet, you are required to make a 'request' for a permanent impairment assessment. To do this, you will need to complete a *Request to Arrange Assessment of Degree of Permanent Impairment* (Form PC1) advising of the AMS you wish to select for your assessment.

You may contact the AMS provider's rooms to determine suitability and availability, but do not make an appointment. In accordance with the *Police Act 1892 (WA)*, Police Separation and Transition (PS&T) will need to make the appointment for you after you have returned your Form PC1. Police Separation and Transition will cover the costs of the permanent impairment assessment.

If you need to be assessed for more than one impairment, you may need to nominate multiple AMS providers for each illness/injury speciality area on separate Form PC1s.

PS&T will liaise with you to ensure the proposed consultation date/time suits you. Once an appointment has been confirmed, you will be advised in writing of the details. You may also receive communication from the AMS provider confirming the same.

In some instances, the AMS provider may not need to consult with you directly (either in person or via Telehealth). This is generally the case if you have seen the AMS previously and they have recent records of your injury/illness details.

The Permanent Impairment Assessment

A permanent impairment assessment is a medical examination to determine and measure the extent of the permanent impairment. The assessment is undertaken using a rigid set of guidelines so any two medical practitioners should provide an identical assessment.

The assessment determines:

- Whether the injury has reached maximum medical improvement (MMI).
- Whether the injury/illness has resulted in an impairment.

- Whether that impairment is permanent.
- Whether that degree of permanent impairment results from the injury/illness.
- Whether any proportion of that impairment is due to any pre-existing injury, condition, or abnormality.

The percentage of impairment that results from the injury or illness must be determined using the tables, graphs and methodology outlined in the WorkCover WA Guidelines for the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment.

Prior to attending your consultation, the AMS provider may also require you or the Police Commissioner (via PS&T) to produce any relevant information.

When attending your appointment, it is advisable to take any x-rays or current scans of your injury and a list of current medications. Please also ensure that you take photographic ID (this is for both face to face and telehealth assessments).

You are also welcome to take a support person. This person can sit in the examination but cannot participate in the interview/history taking unless specifically requested for information by the AMS. If you take children along with you, please try and take someone to look after them in the waiting area. This will allow the AMS to concentrate on your examination and what you are saying to him/her.

If your assessment is via telehealth, please ensure that you have a quiet, well lit room to dial in from and that you and your support person are in clear view.

Most appointments take between one to two hours and can vary, depending on the injury or illness. At your appointment the AMS will want to know about your complete medical history; your work injury/illness and how it has impacted you and any medications you may be taking. They may also want to know things like previous employment or your hobbies.

The AMS may perform a physical examination. It is recommended you wear loose comfortable clothing which can be easily removed, if required during the examination. The AMS may ask you to perform basic movements that will demonstrate how you are functioning from a physical perspective. These examinations are not strenuous and are performed in a way to avoid discomfort. It is important for the AMS to conduct a thorough physical examination for an accurate assessment to be completed.

The AMS may request you to attend an examination or assessment by another medical practitioner, or undergo further testing, in order to assist them in finalising their report.

Prior to the assessment being finalised you may provide the AMS with any other documents and information you consider relevant to the assessment.

If you fail to comply with a requirement imposed by an AMS, they may defer making the assessment of your permanent impairment until all requirements have been complied with.

The AMS' role is to assess your current injury/illness impairment. They cannot discuss the impairment rating with you or make recommendations about any ongoing treatment you may require.

The AMS will finalise their report and provide this to the Police Commissioner (via PS&T). You will receive a copy of that report within seven days of the Police Commissioner receiving it.

If you have any questions regarding your report, you are to contact PS&T, as you are not authorised to contact the AMS directly to discuss the outcome of the assessment.

Finalising Permanent Impairment

Once you have medically retired PS&T will provide you with a compensation offer in the form of an *Acceptance of Amount of Compensation* (Form PC5), together with the permanent impairment assessment report.

PS&T are not able to provide you with the compensation offer until your entitlement date, after you have been medically retired. As soon as your entitlement date occurs, an *Acceptance of Amount of Compensation* (Form PC5) will be sent to you.

Once you have received your compensation offer you may accept, or alternatively, lodge a dispute with the Police Compensation Tribunal if you disagree with the degree of permanent impairment calculated by the AMS. Further information regarding this process will be provided to you at the time you receive your compensation offer.

If you have any questions regarding your offer, or the dispute process, Police Separation and Transition can assist.

Further advice can also be sought independently from the WA Police Union.