

Schedule of Recommended Fees

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AASW

Australian Association
of Social Workers

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Schedule of Recommended Fees

This Schedule of Recommended Fees is for use by AASW members in private practice. The fees reflect the knowledge, skills and expertise of experienced social workers accredited by the AASW and consider the expenses associated with working in private practice.

Aim and scope

The AASW has published this Schedule of Recommended Fees (Schedule) for its members who are in private practice.

The Schedule considers a range of social work services offered through private practice and provides a benchmark for members to set their own professional fees. The recommended fees reflect the currency of knowledge, skills and expertise of experienced social workers accredited by the AASW and working in private practice.

Medicare, NDIS and other schemes have their own requirements and procedures for fees and service delivery that members should be familiar with if providing services under these schemes. These considerations are beyond the scope of this Schedule.

Context

This updated Schedule is the result of consultation with AASW members, development/use of a fee calculator tool, benchmarking of industry fees, reference to industry awards, consideration of CPI rates and acknowledgement of the qualifications, expertise and practice environments of AASW members in private practice.

Use of the Schedule

The recommended fees are a guide only. Pricing of services is at the discretion of you, the individual social worker, and will reflect your specific circumstances. Pricing may vary from this Schedule based on your qualifications, experience, practice location, business expenses, target market and other relevant factors.

Please refer to the AASW's [Fee Calculator Tool](#) to establish your practice's fee based on your individual circumstances and business expenses. Refer to the footnotes of the table below when considering your individual circumstances.

It is important for other organisations and your service users/clients (referred to as 'clients' herein) to understand there are expenses associated with running a private practice and maintaining high professional standards and currency of knowledge. These expenses are reflected within the recommended fees.

The recommended fees also reflect the time involved, over and above the nominated service time, on non-billable preparation, letter writing, referrals, etc. For example, for a one-hour session, there is often half an hour of extra work involved that is covered within this hourly session fee.

| Service | Recommended fees ¹ |
|---|--|
| Casework/individual sessions | \$270 per hour |
| Family or other group sessions | \$270 per hour (or equivalent per-person rate) |
| Telehealth/telephone casework/individual sessions | \$270 per hour |
| Supervision (subject to GST) | \$270 per hour ² |
| Group Supervision (subject to GST) | \$270 per hour (or equivalent per-person rate) |
| Consultancy/organisational work (subject to GST) | \$325 per hour |
| Training services (subject to GST) | \$1,820-2,600 per day ³ |
| Assessment and report writing (may be subject to GST) | \$270 per hour (may require a sliding scale dependent on the number of pages rather than time) |
| Report preparation (may be subject to GST) | \$270 per hour |
| Attendance at court/specialist briefings (subject to GST) | \$405 per hour (allowing for extra preparation, complexity and responsibility) |

- 1 Depending on your experience, qualifications, accreditation, practice location, target clients, niche market, practice expenses etc., set your fees to suit your circumstances. For example, a highly experienced, accredited social worker with business expenses (including rent and part-time staff), might charge \$270 per session (equal to about \$60 per hour after expenses are deducted). A non-accredited social worker starting out in private practice, with fewer years of experience and business expenses, might set their fees at a lower rate.
- 2 Supervision of social work students on placement (as an external field educator) would be at a lower rate and can be negotiated with the higher education provider.
- 3 Training services can vary from collaborative training services (contribution of expertise, collaboration and/or facilitation) working with the support of a learning team, to the provision of all-inclusive training services where a higher daily rate might be appropriate.

Further important considerations

The above list of fees is not exhaustive. You may wish to include any extra items relating to your practice in your own fees, such as case conferences, reproducing records for subpoenas, paid travel time and cancellation fees (if applicable).

As per the AASW [Code of Ethics](#), social workers should ensure that clients are aware of fee schedules and costs before commencing professional service and are charged only for hours and services contracted.

Members 'accredited by the AASW' refers to members holding the Accredited Social Worker trademark or one or more of the AASW credentials. Accredited members are required to undertake a minimum of 30 hours of CPD activities each year (including CPD activities specific to their accreditation) and are committed to upholding the AASW Code of Ethics. This accreditation process acknowledges the experience and currency of knowledge of these members. The associated expenses and time required to maintain these accreditations are reflected in these recommended fees. For further information about AASW social worker accreditations, please refer to the [AASW website](#).

Disclaimer

This Schedule is for use by AASW members and is produced as a guide only. The pricing of services for private practices is at the discretion of individuals.

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© Australian Association of Social Workers

National Office
Level 7, 14-20 Blackwood St
North Melbourne VIC 3051

PO Box 2008
Royal Melbourne Hospital VIC 3050

T 03 9320 1000
or 1800 630 126 (toll free alternative)
E membership@asw.asn.au
www.asw.asn.au

ACN 008 576 010
ABN 93 008 576 010



AASW
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of Social Workers

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E membership@asw.asn.au

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