



TPI FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

“Disabled in our Service - United in our Cause”



Federation President’s Report

January 2024

Hearing Aids Update

Is your Audiologist again asking DVA for Prior Approval for your hearing aids? If not, you need to advise them that there is a new Prior Approval form required by DVA. Ask the Audiologist to google “D9398 – Audiology Prior Financial Approval Request”.

If the Audiologist completes this form correctly and the informs DVA that the needs of the Veteran have been established then they should now be approved. I ask all TPis to advise if they are now not receiving their DVA hearing aid needs so that any further barriers can be removed by DVA. The DVA Secretary is trying hard to get this issue rectified for all Veterans.

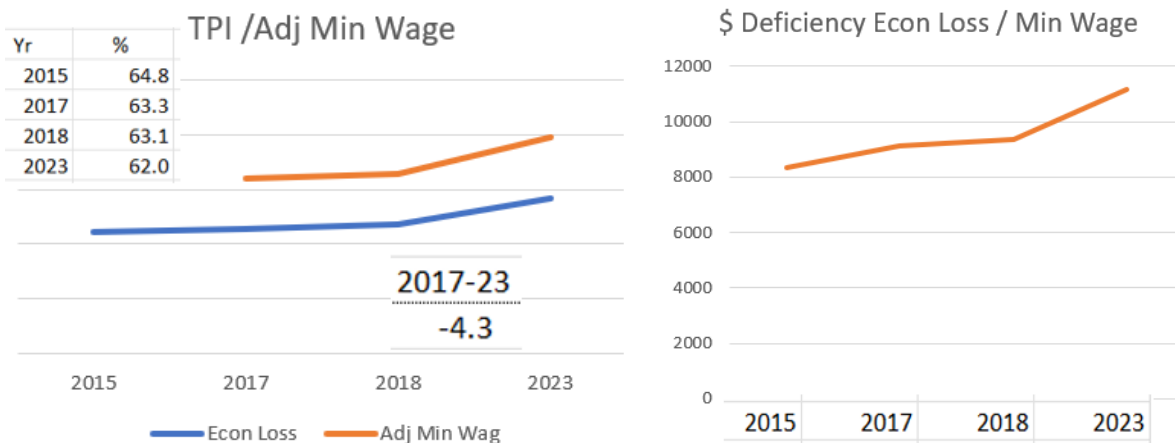
DVA Prescriptions

From 1 January 2024, you may pay up to \$31.60 for most PBS & RPBS medicines, or \$7.70 using the DVA cards. The Australian Government pays the remaining cost (except for brand premiums and certain other allowable charges). Also, from 1 January 2024, the PBS & RPBS Safety Net threshold for patients with a concession card will be \$277.20 (or 36 scripts) and for other eligible patients it will be \$1,647.90.

It is interesting to note that again we are being asked to pay more for our compensable medications. In 2022 there was a 3% increase to the co-payment while receiving a 0% increase in the pharmaceutical allowance. Again in 2023 there was a 7.4% increase in the co-payment with a 6.5% increase in the pharmaceutical allowance. And now in 2024 there is yet another increase of 5.5% in the co-payment with a corresponding 3% increase in the pharmaceutical allowance. It is also interesting to note that when the co-payment system began in 1992 the pharmaceutical allowance of \$5.20 enabled 2 scripts at the concessional rate of \$2.60. Today, the pharmaceutical allowance will purchase 1.1 scripts per fortnight. How many TPis only obtain one script per fortnight as compensation? Again, we are paying for our own compensation! Non-Operational TPis don’t even receive the RPBS reimbursement through the Veterans’ Pharmaceutical Reimbursement Scheme that Operational TPis receive! We are paying for our own compensation!

Decline of the TPI Compensation

You will recall that we have tried to have the Government address the 7-decade decline in the Economic Loss Compensation for some time. It was disappointing that the DVA Minister, Mr Matt Keogh MP, refused to discuss this with the Federation at our last Congress. It would appear that a \$19 p.wk (or \$1,000 p.a.) increase in 2022 was supposed to be sufficient to make amends for the 70 year decline. You may be interested in seeing the figures as they are today.



It is hoped that the Minister will discuss with us in March, the continuing decline – even allowing for the one increase in 2022 – since the election. As you can see the gap is growing again and the 2021 Senate Enquiry that acknowledged the need for an adjustment to the Economic Loss compensation has not actually been addressed at all.

It is hoped that with the support of all 26,000 TPIs nationally that (continuing the 10-year battle to date) we can, again, try to be heard and have the Government honour their commitment to the Veterans, especially those most disabled Veterans, to care for them when they are wounded or injured while in Service.

TPI Federation Congress

This year the TPI Federation’s bi-annual congress meetings will take place in Canberra. The dates for 2024 are 20-22 March and 14-16 August. If you wish to attend these meetings as an observer, please speak with your State/Territory TPI Association for the appropriate forms to be completed.

Royal Commission Update

The final public Royal Commission hearing has been completed. This will be the last public hearing block of the inquiry before the release of the final report in September 2024. Hopefully, the Government will heed any recommendations that may result from the Royal Commission.

Conclusion

The TPI Federation will continue to assist all TPIs and your families, so should you have any questions, please call or forward enquiries to the email address below.



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February 2024

Important Dates

Royal Commission started	– 8 July 2021
Royal Commission Interim Report - Completed	– 11 August 2022
Royal Commission Hearings – Sydney	– 13 March 2024
Royal Commission Private Session – Closed	– 28 April 2023
Royal Commission Submissions – Closed	– 13 October 2023
Royal Commission Final Report	– 9 September 2024

For further information call 1800 331 800