



MEDIA ADVISORY

27 October 2017

NSW PAYS HIGH PRICE FOR MEDICAL IMAGING OF WORKERS' INJURIES

New research by [icare](#) has found that the various workers compensation schemes in Australian states and territories can generate surprisingly different fee structures for the same medical services provided to injured workers.

[icare](#) recently conducted a study comparing the cost (*see graph, pg. 2*) of the medical imaging services it purchases for injured workers in NSW with the cost of the same services in other Australian workers compensation jurisdictions.

The findings showed that \$18.8 million worth of the same medical imaging services purchased by icare in 2016-17 would have cost only:

- \$9.7 million if purchased by WorkSafe Victoria;
- \$11.3 million if purchased by WorkCover Western Australia (WA); and
- \$11.4 million if purchased by ReturnToWork South Australia (SA).

WA, SA and Victoria were selected for the study due to icare's ability to access their public fee schedules and use them to cost the volume of medical imaging services purchased by icare from 2016-17.

Please attribute the following quotes to John Nagle, Group Executive, Workers Insurance, icare:

"When it comes to purchasing medical imaging, New South Wales is one of the most expensive workers compensation jurisdictions in Australia," icare Workers Insurance Group Executive John Nagle said.

"Also key in the findings is that all schemes included in the study paid a much higher cost for medical imaging services than Australian consumers outside of state-run workers compensation schemes," he said.

"In effect, our \$18.8 million cost for medical imaging would have been only \$6.3 million if the services were charged at 100 per cent of Australia's MBS (Medical Benefits Schedule) fee schedule.

"The data suggests that workers compensation schemes in many Australian jurisdictions are paying inflated prices for medical imaging – with NSW facing particularly high prices.

"The regulated set maximum fees are exactly that - a maximum. This study shows that much lower prices for the same services can and are being attained.

"icare is in discussion with the industry to achieve a more equitable and sustainable pricing schedule", Mr Nagle said.

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About icare: icare (Insurance & Care NSW) is the insurance and care provider for NSW. We insure 3.7 million workers, motorists and builders and 296,000 employers. For more information, visit: www.icare.nsw.gov.au

Medical imaging cost comparison based on volume of services purchased by icare in 2016/17

