

GP Compliance Costs  
Productivity Commission  
Locked Bag 2  
Collins Street East Post Office  
MELBOURNE VIC 8003

Delivered via email: [gpcompcosts@pc.gov.au](mailto:gpcompcosts@pc.gov.au)



**CANNING  
DIVISION**  
OF GENERAL PRACTICE

ACN 061 656 577

ABN: 81061 656 577

30<sup>th</sup> August 2002

Dear Sir or Madam,

**Re: Submission on General Practice compliance costs**

Please accept this submission on compliance costs in General Practice. The attached excel spreadsheet quantifies the time taken to complete the forms as required by various government departments and is based on information gathered from discussions with GPs. The quantification is not an exhaustive list, but will provide a reasonable estimation of the number of hours required each year (212 hours in this case) to comply with government "red tape".

In this example, part of the administrative work is dealt with by nurses or administrative staff. Other GPs in a solo practice or small group practice are less likely to have such support and probably bear an even greater administrative burden.

EPC and care plans in particular also raise a number of other issues, as coordination of care with other people (eg. allied health staff) is required. These issues range from workload, timeframe and financial aspects on the other party.

Our concern is not so much lack of payment (of course it helps to be paid for it), but rather this time could be much better spent in patient care. With the growing shortage of GPs in metropolitan areas, the increasing administrative workload is placing more pressure on doctors in a health system that requires all of the available capacity of doctors to meet the clinical needs of patients. GPs need to get back to what they do best: treating patients, not administration.

We recommend a review of existing forms by a panel of GPs in terms of content and layout and to determine what could be completed by practice staff.

If you have any queries or would like any clarifications, please don't hesitate to contact me or Research and Development Officer Karin Orlemann on 9458 0505 ([karin@canningdivision.com.au](mailto:karin@canningdivision.com.au)).

Yours sincerely,

Dr Roly Bott  
Chairman



PO BOX 268  
BENTLEY WA 6982

☎ 08 9458 0505

Fax: 08 9458 8733

[www.canningdivision.com.au](http://www.canningdivision.com.au)

email: [admin@canningdivision.com.au](mailto:admin@canningdivision.com.au)

# Quantification of time required to comply with Government Red Tape in General Practice

Results of discussion with a GP in a corporate Perth metropolitan practice  
part of Canning Division of General Practice's submission on General Practice Compliance Costs - 30 August 2002

Form	time required to complete form	no. of forms completed per week	no. of forms completed per year	time required per year (mins)	time required per year (hours)	Comments
<b>Dept of Family and community Services and Centrelink</b>						
Disability Support Pension	17.5 mins	2.5 per week	130 per year	2275 mins	37.9 hours	needs to be conducted every two years
Sickness Allowance	5 mins	5 per week	260 per year	1300 mins	21.7 hours	
Carer Payment	17.5 mins	1.5 per week	78 per year	1365 mins	22.8 hours	
Carer Allowance (child & adult)	17.5 mins	1.5 per week	78 per year	1365 mins	22.8 hours	
<b>Dept of Veteran Affairs</b>						
Diagnostic report anxiety disorder or depressive disorder	40 mins		1.5 per year	60 mins	1.0 hours	Repatriation pays something (unsure how much)
Medical Report on application for Attendant Allowance	40 mins		5.5 per year	220 mins	3.7 hours	
<b>Other</b>						
ACROD - disability parking sticker form	10 mins	2.5 per week	130 per year	1300 mins	21.7 hours	
Taxi-scheme	10 mins	2.5 per week	130 per year	1300 mins	21.7 hours	
Passport application	10 mins		2 per year	20 mins	0.3 hours	
Death & Cremation Certificates	20 mins		10 per year	200 mins	3.3 hours	
Coroner's Report	60 mins		2 per year	120 mins	2.0 hours	
Reporting of adverse drug reactions	15 mins		3.5 per year	53 mins	0.9 hours	
Reporting of communicable diseases	15 mins		20 per year	300 mins	5.0 hours	
Power of attorney	20 mins		4.5 per year	90 mins	1.5 hours	two doctors are required for this
Travellers Medicals	5 mins		30 per year	150 mins	2.5 hours	
Authority scripts - phoning for authority	2.5 mins	20 per week	1040 per year	2600 mins	43.3 hours	
<b>Total time required on completing forms</b>					<b>212.0 hours per year</b>	<b>5.65 weeks per year based on 37.5 hours/week</b>