

BULLETIN

Body Repair Division



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VACC member access to an industry recognised times guide

Dear BRD member

Major changes are occurring across the smash repair industry, at the centre of these changes is how reviews of repairers estimates are being conducted by insurers.

For members wanting to take charge of their own business, and substantiate their claims that the Estimates they submit to insurers are based on real-time calculations, then members may wish to consider the use of the AudaNet Private system.

The AudaNet Private uses the same data population model as the more commonly known Audatex system. Audatex provides vehicle manufacturers (OEM) times for removal, refit and replacement as published in their workshop manuals. While the Audatex estimating system was not designed to replace the methods manual, its operations are listed in a logical sequence for ease of understanding and quote the manufacturer's original operation number for further reference.

Vehicle manufacturers directly supply Audatex/AudaNet Private International Data Development Centres (DDC's) with their methods/times. In some cases (e.g. Jaguar and Land Rover), Thatcham panel times are used. In others, the OEM has utilised other independent data centres (e.g. Jikken, AZT, Samsung Fire & Marine, KART) to research the time and method on their behalf.

Interestingly, AudaNet Private is priced for a range of estimate volumes and can be paid on a month by month basis.

The prices listed below are on a per-shop basis and not a per-account basis:

Light Use:

\$300/month *

AudaNet Private

Mobility Pack

Up to 20 AudaNet Estimates per shop

Medium Use:

\$400/month *

AudaNet Private

Mobility Pack

Up to 40 AudaNet Estimates per shop

Heavy Use:

\$600/month *

AudaNet Private

Mobility Pack

41+ AudaNet Estimates per shop

** Prices are subject to GST*

I would like to point out that VACC recently released the AMBRA Shop Rate Calculator. Combined with member access to times guides, such as AudaNet Private, VACC members should be better placed to not only construct their realistic times and realistic rates estimates but also provide compelling evidence that their calculations are valid if contested by insurers or if a Code dispute arises.

Please note, it is VACC BRD policy that access to times guide is at the sole discretion of individual members and selection of one or more times guides is voluntary.

It is also VACC position that a times guide is a guide only and it is the members right to decide on the time used to arrive at the realistic estimate for each repair job/claim.

Essential matters to consider in considering the AudaNet Private system:

1. *AudaNet Private is offered by AudaNet and VACC has no commercial interest in AudaNet Private or Audatex.*
2. *All AudaNet Private users automatically start with Light usage and will be charged according to how much you use per month.*
3. *All subscription models allow five users per shop. If you require additional users, you will have to contact AudaNet support@audatex.com.au*
4. *AudaNet Private can only be used by individual repair shops wishing to write smash repair estimates for any private or insurer work.*
5. *Audatex Australia reserves the right to change prices and usage fees at any time. Audatex Australia also reserves the right to cancel any subscription at any time.*
6. *There are no lock-in contracts meaning you can opt out at any time*
7. *The prices listed are on a per-shop basis and not a per-account basis.*
8. *VACC does not, and will not recognise, or endorse, any product which integrates times guides with labour rate or shop rates. Times guide estimates and shop rate calculations should be calculated separately and at the sole discretion of the individual small business body repairer.*
9. *VACC members are reminded they should always enter into genuine negotiations with an insurer to arrive at an agreed real cost for repairs regardless of what times guide our member prefers. Therefore, times guides and independently calculated shop rates are to guide negotiations for members to arrive at a realistic cost of repairs.*

Contact Audatex directly by taking this link: <https://www.audatex.com.au/#contact-us>

Regards

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