



A Doctors appointment is a private affair

The AMWU is concerned to hear that some employers are insisting on attending a worker's medical appointment. This is unacceptable.

The Fair Work Ombudsman agrees. In September 2012 the FWO said it "sees no reason why an employer should seek to attend a private and confidential appointment with an employee, unless specifically requested to do so by the employee."

For absences of work, except for workers' compensation claims, the FWO said that "medical certificates or a statutory declaration is generally considered an acceptable form of evidence" and that a medical certificate stating that "you are unfit for work" is adequate.

This does not apply for workers' compensation certificates ---- these certificates need detail & a statement about your incapacity or ability to perform restricted duties. For return to work arrangements, your employer may wish to speak with your doctor about suitable work. You need to be present during conversations between your treating doctor and the supervisor or RTW/rehabilitation provider. You may also wish to take a union delegate/ HSR or friend/family member with you.

The AMWU strongly advises you to attend your family doctor for any treatment, for both work and non work related illness/injury.

In some circumstances for workers' compensation claims you may be required to attend an insurance doctor. Make sure you seek advice [union or legal] before attending these appointments.