



MEDIA RELEASE

Minister for Health and Ageing

Tony Abbott MHR

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Private Health Insurance Rebate increases today for older Australians

From today, Private Health Insurance will be more affordable for older Australians with the Howard Government delivering its election commitment to increase the Private Health Insurance Rebate.

The Private Health Insurance Rebate will increase today from 30 per cent to 40 per cent for people aged 70 years and older and to 35 per cent for people aged from 65 to 69 years.

This will help older Australians who contribute to private health insurance, making it more affordable and providing more peace of mind. The higher rebates will help more than one million older Australians keep their private health cover.

Many older Australians have contributed to private health insurance for most of their adult lives. They have contributed during their younger years while enjoying good health. Now, when they need private health insurance cover most, it is important that premiums remain affordable.

Older people taking out private health insurance for the first time will also be eligible for the higher rebate.

Australia enjoys one of the best systems of health and hospital care in the world. The public and private sectors co-exist and complement each other, with the private hospital sector providing about half of all acute hospital procedures.

Older Australians with private health cover, along with other Australians with private health insurance, help take the pressure off our public hospital system, with 56 per cent of all surgery performed in private hospitals.

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