



Private Health Insurance – transparency of out-of-pocket costs

The Australian Government is implementing the most significant reforms to private health insurance (PHI) in over a decade, which is making it simpler and more affordable.

The Government has embarked on a significant PHI reform journey to improve access to services and ensure value for money for consumers. The Budget begins delivery of the second wave of these reforms.

The transparency of out-of-pocket costs has been improved thanks to the Medical Cost Finder website. The website is a medical costs finder tool which collects, validates and publishes individual non-GP medical specialist fees. The website will be enhanced, and specialists will be supported to use the tool and update fee information.

Why is this important?

Currently 13,610,795 Australians hold private health insurance. The Government is delivering on its commitment to improve the transparency of out-of-pocket costs, which are a significant concern to consumers and influence their decisions about taking out PHI.

The out-of-pocket costs website will give PHI consumers and referring doctors access to information on individual specialists and government and insurer benefits. This will support choice of specialist, minimise out-of-pocket costs and improve understanding of the value of private health insurance.

Who will benefit?

Patients will have a better understanding of PHI and find it more attractive and value for money.

How much will this cost?

This will cost \$17.1 million from 2020–21 to 2023–24.