



THE HON JOSH FRYDENBERG MP
Member for Kooyong
Minister for the Environment and Energy

MEDIA RELEASE

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KOOYONG RESIDENTS TO BENEFIT FROM MAJOR PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM

The Turnbull Government has announced a wide ranging package of reforms to make private health insurance simpler and more affordable for the people in Kooyong.

Every dollar matters to families in Kooyong and these reforms will get better value for families and make policies easier to understand.

We are encouraging younger Australians to take up private health insurance by allowing insurers to discount hospital insurance premiums for 18 to 29 year olds by up to 10 per cent. The discount will phase out after people turn 40.

People with hospital insurance that does not offer full cover for mental health treatment will be able to upgrade their cover and access mental health services without a waiting period on a once-off basis. This will significantly enhance the value of private health insurance for young people.

We will increase the maximum excess consumers can choose under their health insurance policies for the first time since 2001. This will allow many consumers to reduce their premium increase in 2019.

We will also act to simplify private health insurance by requiring insurers to categorise products as gold/silver/bronze/basic, and use standardised definitions for treatments to make it clear what is and isn't covered in their policies.

The privatehealth.gov.au website will be upgraded to make it easier to compare insurance products, and insurers will be able to provide personalised information to consumers on their product every year.

We're also boosting the powers of the Private Health Insurance Ombudsman and increasing its resources to ensure consumer complaints are resolved clearly and quickly.

The Turnbull Government is committed to private health insurance and we're committed to supporting the more than 13 million Australians that have taken out cover.

We are investing around \$6 billion every year in the private health insurance rebate to help keep premiums affordable for families in Kooyong.

The Turnbull Government is committed to improving private health insurance into the future, and our reform work will continue. **[Ends]**

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