

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

19 December 2018



### **Premium Rise 2019**

The Federal Minister for Health Greg Hunt today, 19 December 2018, announced the annual approval of premium increases for health funds, to come into effect from 1 April 2019.

Pleasingly, Health Partners' approved increase of 3.18% is below the industry average of 3.25%

"We are committed to keeping premiums as low as possible for our members, while still providing high quality care and benefits that deliver value for money," says Health Partners CEO Byron Gregory.

"As an SA owned not-for-profit health fund, doing the right thing by our members in returning genuine and generous benefits remains our number one priority,"

"Health Partners returns 88 cents in every premium dollar back to members in benefits paid on hospital, dental, optical and physiotherapy, which continues to be above the industry average of 85 cents."

There are also some Government-led changes to private health insurance that will apply from April 1, aimed at simplifying the categorisation of hospital products into Gold/Silver/Bronze/Basic product tiers.

"Health Partners has always classified its products in this accessible and straightforward way, so our members will notice little change."

"We fully support any measures which make it easier for people to understand what they are getting for their money and to find the right cover to suit their needs," Mr Gregory says.

"We understand that affordability remains an issue and will continue to work with the Government to identify reforms that will improve transparency and help reduce health sector costs, which are rising faster than CPI inflation.

"Maintaining the integrity of private health insurance is critical to the proper functioning and sustainability of Australia's health care system, both private and public.

"Individual members who have questions about their cover should reach out to our Member Care Team," Mr Gregory says. "We're here to help."

**For more information, please contact Nicole Haack at The Message Bureau on 8418 7500 or 0411 196 661.**