

NSA News...Health insurance rebate slashed for Seniors.....

In a shock move, the federal government will end higher rebates for seniors to pay for improvements to aged care. As the saying goes – do you want the good news or the bad news first? The good news is that the government will fix aged care by injecting \$3 Bill. To rectify the Support at Home Program and build new aged care homes. The bad news is that people over 65 will pay for this with a reduction in the private health insurance rebate. While NSA acknowledges and supports the proposed changes to aged care, it should not come at the expense of older Australians struggling to maintain access to private health. Many of these will be pensioners who don't want to be a burden on the public hospital system. The investment in aged care include:

The removal of co-contribution for showering, continence management, and dressing through the Support at Home Program.

The delivery of 20 additional Special Dementia care units

The expansion of the Hospital to Aged Care Dementia Support Program, and the construction of an estimated additional 5 000 beds a year.

The savings to pay for these come from a reduction in the higher private health insurance rebate to align with the rate offered to people under 65. The base tier rebate for a person under 65 is currently 24.118% compared to 28.139% for people aged 65-69 and 32.158% for those aged 70 and over.

Cutting the rebate will hurt seniors.

NSA CEO Chris Grice said that around 2.5 mill. Australians aged 65 and over will be shocked by the decision to cut the higher PHI rebate. The impact of this will be significant and could push older people with limited income and savings out of the private health system. "Some of these people will undoubtedly be pensioners who are struggling to maintain their cover from successive price hikes," Mr Grice said.

"For example, a gold level hospital policy (couple) costing \$9 000 before 1 April would have likely increased by around \$900 by 1 April. This will increase by another \$ 800 per year as a result of the rebate reduction for couples with an income in the base tier'

"Many of these older people have paid private insurance for decades. Now, at a time when they really need that insurance - when affordability is paramount – it has been swept from under their feet. It is a case of ' robbing Peter to pay Paul'.

Recent NSA research shows that private health insurance is one of the top cost of living concerns for seniors. Separate research by NSA found that older Australians value the peace of mind and control over healthcare PHI provides. Many wish to maintain it.

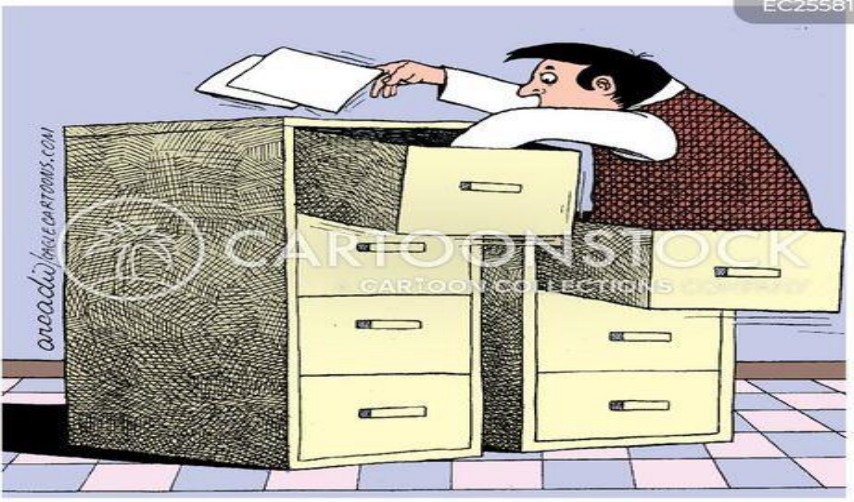
NSA has been calling for reform to private health for many years on the back of growing concern among older people about the affordability of private health insurance and out of pocket costs. We continue to call on the Federal Government to convene a

Productivity Commission review to review the private health system to identify the cause of premium increases, rising specialist costs, and increase hospital charges .

National Seniors AUSTRALIA

**Modbury Branch News Letter
April/May 2026**

Issue239



Branch Diary Guest Speakers 2026

- 18th May Ben Hollister (Archivist)
- 15th June Cassandra Coggins (Life Care -Aged Care information)
- 20th July Radio Players (performance group)

Modbury NSA is sponsored by the Modbury Plaza Hotel
Thanks to the Office of Federal Member for Makin, Tony Zappia, in the printing of this Newsletter

Committee for 2026

President	Susan Boyle	0410 500 779
Vice President	Piero Fioretti	0423 784 050
Secretary	Bruce Anderson	0449 574 554

Treasurer	Bruce Dommenez	
Assist. Treasurer	Alastair Boyle	
Activities Officer		
Guest Speakers	Rosalie Zurek	0416 010 329
Welfare	Ashley Todd	0447 745 197
Extra Member (1) (Outings)	Mary Fioretti	0407 054 825
Extra Member (2)		
Ex Officio. Public Officer	Ray Zurek	
Door	Dianne & David Broadbent	
Greeter	Beverley Anderson	
Newsletter	Ray Zurek	

Modbury National Seniors meet every third Monday of the month (4th if Public Holiday) at 1.30pm at the Lutheran Homes, 1217 Grand junction Rd. Hope Valley, except November and December. Entrance fee \$ 5.00

Postal address: NSA Modbury, PO Box 499 St Agnes 5097

We always welcome visitors and potential new members. If after 3 or 4 visits you find that you enjoy coming to our meetings and being part of our group why not become a financial member of National Seniors Australia? Members are able to get involved in discussing and taking part in community issues pertaining to Senior Australians. You can also take part in social events, hear interesting guestspeakers and meet like-minded members at other branches. Most importantly members can ensure that their voice is heard on issues affecting the over 6 mill. Australians over 50.

Only financial members are covered by NSA Insurance on Outings! Financial members will also Be given preference when there is a limit on numbers eg.Christmas Lunch, Bus trips etc.

Membership fees

	Single	Joint
1year membership	\$49.50	\$80
2 year "	\$88	\$143
3 year "	\$120	\$180
5 year "	\$220	\$325

Enrolment forms can be found on Activities table or from Treasurer. M/F can also be paid at the Post Office or by phone. No Credit card surcharge applies!

Riddle: If you don't keep it, it will break. What am I?

Grandma's Wit and Wisdom: Being happy is a requisite for longevity!

Interesting facts: Centenarians are the fastest growing demographic in Australia.

Forthcoming events for 2026-----

Monday 29th June, 12noon lunch at Modbury Plaza Hotel, raffle, if interested place your name in the folder . Please inform Rosalie if you can't come.
Anyone interested in Coopers Brewery Tour. Full tour with tasting \$50, short tour with tastings \$ 35. See Ashley for more details.

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**April Birthdays :Susan Boyle(1), Roma Webb(17), Pam Sweet(20),
Weddings: Ken & Andrea Randell(9), Merv & Jill Fenwick(27)**

Congratulations and best wishes to All!!

**May Birthdays: Josephine Hillier(4), Val Jackson(8), Bruce Anderson(27),
Selma McPharlin(28), Pat Todd(29), Ray Zurek(30),**

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Joke?

