



Private health insurance reforms: Legislative amendments

Private Health Insurance Legislation Amendment Act 2018 and related Acts

On 21 September 2018, a package of three Acts was made to implement reforms to make private health insurance simpler and more affordable:

- the *Private Health Insurance Legislation Amendment Act 2018*
- the *A New Tax System (Medicare Levy Surcharge—Fringe Benefits) Amendment (Excess Levels for Private Health Insurance Policies) Act 2018*
- the *Medicare Levy Amendment (Excess Levels for Private Health Insurance Policies) Act 2018*.

The *Private Health Insurance Legislation Amendment Act 2018* contains the primary amendments to support the following measures:

- increased maximum voluntary excess levels for products providing individuals an exemption from the Medicare levy surcharge
- age based premium discounts for hospital cover
- strengthening the powers of the Private Health Insurance Ombudsman
- improved access to travel and accommodation benefits by allowing insurers to offer these under hospital cover
- improving information provided to consumers
- reforming the administration of second tier default benefits arrangements for hospitals
- providing increased consumer protection if an insurer terminates an existing product.

The other amendments to taxation laws listed above give effect to increased maximum voluntary excess levels changes.

Separate fact sheets are available on each of these measures.