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ISELECT WELCOMES GOVERNMENT OVERHAUL OF PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE

Discounted premiums for under 30s will make private cover more attractive to younger Australians & help lower premiums

[Click here](#) to view a video of iSelect Managing Director & CEO, Scott Wilson discussing the reforms. (YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/syZyXyHZ1GA>)

[iSelect](#), Australia's leading private health insurance broker, has welcomed the Federal Government's decision to categorise policies into gold, silver, bronze and basic, and also introduce discounted premiums for younger customers.

Scott Wilson, iSelect Managing Director & CEO, welcomed the changes saying they would reduce cost of living pressures on Australian families and help to make a complex purchase decision much simpler.

"Around one in five private health insurance policies is sold through iSelect and so we know from speaking directly to our customers how hard it is for Australians to compare thousands of available options," Scott said.

"At iSelect, we're all about making it easier for customers to choose the right policy. The introduction of gold, silver, bronze and basic policies will make it much easier for customers to make an informed decision as to which policy is best suited to their individual needs and budget."

Under the changes announced by Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt on Friday 13 October, it has been reported that gold policies will have no exclusions, silver policies will also cover everything but customers will have to pay an excess with hospital admissions while bronze policies will have exclusions for things such as pregnancy, mental health or joint replacements. Basic policies will only cover treatment as a private patient in a public hospital.

Mr Wilson also applauded the government's decision to allow insurers to offer a discount to younger customers. Australians aged under 30 will get a two per cent discount on their premium for each year they hold cover, up to a maximum of 10 per cent.

"Over the past few years, the industry has seen a sharp decline in the number of customers aged under thirty taking out private health insurance which is particularly concerning given the insurers rely on younger, healthier customers who are less likely to claim to help keep costs down."

Mr Wilson said the government's decision to introduce a discount for younger customers would hopefully stem the tide of young people turning their backs on private cover.

"Hopefully the introduction of a 10 per cent discount will encourage more young people to take out cover earlier in life, and maintain it, which will reduce the pressure on premiums and make private cover more affordable for all Australians."

Under the changes, the cost of prostheses used for hip and knee replacements will also be dramatically reduced and is expected to result in lower premium rises over the coming years.

Mr Wilson said private health insurance premiums have risen by more than fifty per cent on average since 2010, which is well above the rate of inflation.

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“We know from speaking to our customers that Australians still really value the peace of mind they get from private health insurance but are struggling to keep up with rising premiums,” Mr Wilson said.

“The decision to cut prosthesis prices to help bring down premiums will be welcome to relief to many Australian families grappling with the rising cost of living.”

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About iSelect

At iSelect, we get that most people find insurance, utilities and personal finance boring. But we understand that it's really important to always get these things right. As Australia's life admin store, iSelect gives customers the confidence to make the right call on some of the things that matter most.

Last year, more than 9 million Australians visited our website and we provided recommendations to over 6 million customers. But we are much more than just another online comparison website. Our highly-trained experts at iSelect HQ help customers to choose and buy from thousands of available policies, products and plans. And we provide our advice at no cost to the customer.

We compare and sell some of Australia's biggest brands but are proud that, unlike other comparison sites, we are not owned by an insurance company. From health and life insurance through to energy and broadband, as well as car insurance and home loans and even connected homes, iSelect helps Australians take care of the boring but important stuff. www.home.iselect

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