

Australian Medical Association Limited
ABN 37 008 426 793

Level 1, 39 Brisbane Avenue, Barton ACT 2600.
 PO Box 6090, Kingston ACT 2604
 Telephone: (02) 6270 5400 Facsimile (02) 6270 5499
 Website: www.ama.com.au



AMA welcomes prostheses reforms but more action needed to ensure private health system sustainability.

The Australian Medical Association (AMA) welcomes the further details of reforms to the Prostheses List for medical devices as a step in the right direction, however, more needs to be done to improve the affordability of private health insurance.

AMA President Dr Omar Khorshid said anticipated savings of \$900m delivered by a more efficient prostheses pricing structure must be fully passed on to consumers by health insurers but will only make a modest difference to health insurance premiums.

“We welcome the next steps in the reform of the Prostheses List and this takes us a step closer to achieving a modern, fit-for-purpose Prostheses List that ensures the private sector is paying competitive prices for all medical devices,” he said.

“Since the Government announced its intention to reform the Prostheses List in the last Budget, the AMA has been working to ensure that planned changes would not impact negatively on patients and that clinicians would still be able to choose the right device for their patients, based on their clinical needs.

“Yesterday’s announcement has seen the Government make some sensible changes to its initial plans that address key concerns raised by the AMA. The AMA will continue to encourage the Government to consult closely with stakeholders, particularly as we move forward with further plans for modernising the Prostheses List.

“Despite these changes, the private health system remains at a tipping point and substantial reform is required to Private Health Insurance if the critical balance between public and private sectors is to survive.”

Dr Khorshid said it was vital that reforms supported the right of patients and doctors to make independent clinical decisions to achieve the best health outcomes.

The AMA’s [Prescription for Private Health Insurance](#) outlines a range of changes that are needed to make insurance more affordable for consumers. It is vital that these changes are considered without delay so that private hospitals, insurers and doctors can continue to provide high quality care to millions of Australians and help relieve the pressure on our logjammed public hospitals.

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CONTACT: AMA Media: +61 2 6270 5478,
 +61 427 209 753
media@ama.com.au

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