

Media Release

5 May 2009

Buy before the budget and lock in your health insurance rebate

"People who are interested in buying health insurance should consider signing up before budget night," Ozecover actuary Peter Carroll advises. "There is a possibility that the tax rebate on private health insurance premiums will be curtailed or means-tested."

"At present, the rebate is worth at least 30% of premiums for all Australian citizens taking out private health insurance. The ALP has promised to retain the rebate, but many critics have described it as middle class welfare and there has been discussion in recent days that it will be targetted in the budget," Peter Carroll says.

"When tax changes are made that leave people worse off, governments are usually wary of backdating them before budget night. Sometimes there are even grandfathering provisions for people who have made commitments under the previous rules. This is worth considering by consumers who are now on the point of buying."

Peter Carroll is a director of Ozecover, a consumer website and database managed by actuaries and specialising in private health insurance. Ozecover gives independent advice to consumers and compares the products of all 38 health funds operating in the Australian health insurance market.

Further information: **www.ozecover.com.au** or Peter Carroll on **1300 ECOVER**.

About Ozecover:

Ozecover is a GENUINE comparator website for buyers of private health insurance in Australia because it includes every insurer. It has been established by professionals with many years' experience in financial services and is independent of any health fund, insurance agency or sales organization.

The Ozecover database is maintained by Rice Warner, an Australian actuarial consulting firm well known over many years for its research in financial services.

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