

Media Release

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Consumers are legally protected if they change their health fund

"Consumers with health insurance can move to another fund without serving new waiting periods or losing other benefits," says Ken Boag, an actuary with the consumer website Ozecover. "Portability rights are protected by law under community rating."

"With premiums soon to go up again, many families will want to cut their costs without giving up completely," says Boag. He has seven tips to help.

1. Keep some hospital insurance. Don't lose your lifetime health cover rights and avoid the Medicare Levy Surcharge.
2. Think carefully about extras. These do not affect your lifetime health cover or tax, and the benefits may be very limited even when you claim.
3. Pay yearly if you can. Discounts and rate protection offer big savings year after year.
4. Don't cover what you'll never need. If you are not having a baby, or cosmetic surgery or expensive dental work, why insure for them?
5. Shop around. For just \$2 a day per single adult you can get good cover for even the best private hospitals.
6. Use a good consumer website, like Ozecover, PHIO or Choice. These include all health funds, big and small, regional and national, and those catering to families in banking, teaching, transport, police, navy & other armed services.
7. Tell your health fund about the competition. They may well offer you a better deal.

Further information: www.ozecover.com.au or Ken Boag on **0417 486 488**.

About Ozecover:

Ozecover is a genuine comparator website for buyers of private health insurance in Australia.

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

We believe users want easy access to the whole market in private health insurance. They seek help in finding appropriate cover at competitive prices, and the facility to buy over the internet.

Commentators and journalists are most welcome to use any of the material on the Ozecover website provided the source www.ozecover.com.au is acknowledged.