

TO THE HONOURABLE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTITIVES

This petition of Private Health Insured Australians draws to the attention of the House that we have experienced annual premium increases **on a compound basis**, far greater than the regulated annual increases allowed by various Health Ministers and their department.

The old community rating for all has gone due to the thousands of products introduced in recent years by Private Health Insurance Funds. This has allowed Funds to discriminate against older Australians and increase premiums annually by stealth, beyond what the Minister has approved. Over a six year period average premium increases, sanctioned through various Health Ministers, are recorded as rising 5.8% PA. Our Premiums have been going up at a greater level than this on a compound basis. The principal petitioner has suffered compound increases of 9.75% over six years, while the CPI increased about 2% PA. Nine months ago this issue was presented to the Health Minister directly, and through our member for Hinkler, for comment. The Health Minister has not responded and our member for Hinkler side steps the issue.

We therefore ask the house to do all in its power to request the Health Minister to:

- 1) Respond to this petition, and address this subject.
- 2) Set a **MAXIMUM** premium price increase annually for each Health Fund, where cover has not been changed by the policy holder.
- 3) Have the Health Department do random audit checks, each year, on Health Fund Premium increases.

PETITIONS COMMITTEE