



PHOENIX HEALTH FUND

53 Years & Going Strong!

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The Newsletter of **Phoenix Health Fund Limited**

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Message from the Manager

Contribution Rates—1st April 2007

The Fund will be increasing the Contribution Rates for the Hospital Tables as detailed in the personal letter accompanying this edition of *Healthlinks*, if applicable to you.

The Fund continues to work with our industry partners to contain the rates of increase in our costs, and the increase is less than for the last three years. The increase has been determined with the best advice available, and approved by the federal Minister for Health as being the minimum required to ensure continued ability to pay benefits as needed, and to allow the ongoing viability of the Fund.

Benefits paid last year totalled \$16,800,000, of which \$4,513,000 were benefits paid from the Ancillary Table.

An analysis of benefits paid from the Hospital Table in particular in 2006 showed 245 claims over \$10,000, with 23 claims over \$30,000!

One particular member had total claims for cardiac procedures of **over \$185,000**—with an out-of-pocket cost of only \$445.

The rate of increase in **Prostheses** costs (and thus benefits) has slowed somewhat, with the reforms recently introduced by the federal government helping in this area.

We continue to maximise the number of **Hospital Contracts**, with currently over 476 Private Hospitals all around Australia. This gives the greatest choice of hospitals for our members.

Access Gap Cover and other arrangements with medical providers are proving beneficial to members, with the overwhelming majority of medical services having "No Gap" in 2006. At the last count there were over 20,230 doctors who are part of these arrangements.

Members' use of **HICAPS Cards** continues to increase, with more and more practitioners, and additional types of services being added. The ability of immediate claiming for the majority of Ancillary services is proving to be convenient for all.

The usage of electronic payments is also proving useful for members, whether it is monthly **Direct Debits** from your credit union, bank or building society account, or **BPay** or **Credit Card** payment using the SecurePay telephone or internet payment facility.

William Beaton
MANAGER



HEALTHLINKS



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New Contribution Rates.

Included in this mail-out is an insert showing our new contribution rates, and including Rates after applying the 30%, 35% and 40% Federal Government Rebates on private health insurance.

The 35% and 40% Rebates apply when an individual on a membership reaches their 65th or 70th birthday.

The accompanying letter takes the Rebates into account.

The contribution rates do not include any Lifetime Health Cover loadings. These are available on request to our office on Freecall 1800 02 8817

If you have arranged **Periodical Payments** of your Contributions to Phoenix Health Fund, please advise your financial institution of the new rates.



Quick Bites

⇒ **Financial Status & HICAPS:**

Members are reminded that they are required to pay Contributions in advance.

Late payment means that:

- (a) your HICAPS Card will not be accepted by Ancillary providers e.g. Dentists, Optometrists, for electronic on-the-spot payment, and
- (b) Hospital Eligibility checks will show that you are Unfinancial.

⇒ Also note that electronic payment, i.e. Bpay or Credit Card, is not immediate, and may take up to two working days to be processed.



PHOENIX HEALTH FUND WEBSITE

www.phoenixhealthfund.com.au :

- **Online Private Hospital Search.** Also the Latest Listing of Contracted Private Hospitals;
- **Travel Insurance—Online**, with payment by Credit Card (some restrictions);
- **Access Gap Cover Doctors** who wish to be listed—via interactive lookup;
- Quarterly Payment Options, including **BPay** and **Credit Card**;
- Latest Listing of **Alternative Therapy Provider Associations**;
- Copies of various **Fund forms**, including Claim Forms, Membership Application Forms, Rebate Application Forms, Direct Debit Forms.
- Privacy Statements; Contribution Rates; General Information;
- Recent *Healthlinks* newsletters; and view most information from the Fund Brochure.

Legislation

Management of the Fund is involved in consultations with the Department of Health, our regulator (PHIAC) and the Ombudsman's office to determine the effects on the Fund of the new legislation and regulations.

These are due to come into effect on 1st April 2007.

Future editions of *Healthlinks* will contain more detail of any adverse effects, and more importantly the opportunities for better services for members.



Joint Venture—OneSteel & Smorgon Steel: Tube Mills

Members can be assured that employees of the Joint Venture will continue to be covered by Phoenix Health Fund, and employees not already covered by Phoenix Health will be able to join the Fund.



Current and continuing employees of Smorgon Steel are also now able to join the Fund.



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