

Australian Health Care Reform Alliance tweets compiled by Croakey News on 16 August 2019

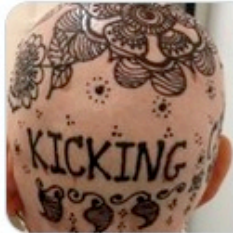


AHCRA @AusHealthReform · Aug 15

"...those with private health insurance faced double the out-of-pocket expenses as those without it, and ultimately a greater financial impact."

New research confirming that private health insurance is not meeting consumers' needs.

abc.net.au/news/2019-08-1... #itsadud



'Cancer is financially devastating': How Jane found...
When Jane was diagnosed with cancer it was the financial cost that scared her most.

abc.net.au



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Private health insurance receives a greater subsidy than manufacturing ever did, even at its peak. The Grattan Institute's [@stephenjduckett](#) says "...propping up industries in the face of consumers turning away from their products is not a long-term proposition." #itsadud



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Also from [@JennaPrice](#) "This [private health care] is a distorted market. Those who make the market have all the power and those forced to shop in the market have none." #itsadud



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And journalist and academic [@JennaPrice](#) has said of private health insurance "The \$9 billion of government money propping up these failures is my good money – and yours – being thrown after bad money." #itsadud

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Industry and public sector management expert Ian McAuley has commented, there isn't anything PHI can do that isn't done more efficiently and more equitably by Medicare. [#itsadud](#)



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And even the Coalition's own [@TerryBarnes5](#) has said "Private health insurance is about as popular as a fart in a lift". [#itsadud](#)

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And ex-CEO of PHIAC [@ShaunCGath](#) said extras cover was an "irrational" purchase for most people and "In a world of fiscal purity [buying extras insurance] probably doesn't make sense." [#itsadud](#)



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Economics editor of the SMH, Ross Gittins has said "subsidising private health insurance doesn't only advantage the better-off (including yours truly), it makes healthcare more expensive than it needs to be" and "Private health insurance is a con job." [#itsadud](#)



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PHI is inefficient in two main ways: its administrative costs are three times higher than those of Medicare and it is unable to control providers' fees. [#itsadud](#)



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Documents leaked to Guardian Australia earlier this month showed Australia's biggest private health insurers had rejected claims from thousands of members, falsely telling them this was due to a review by a medical practitioner. [#itsadud](#)

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Michael West, Adjunct Associate Professor, University of Sydney says "Health insurance is yet another taxpayer-subsidised sector whose financial disclosures are murky to the point of deception." [#itsadud](#)



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Podger points out that the tax benefits (the Medicare surcharge exemption) for higher-income groups bear no relationship to private premiums and may even exceed the premiums that funds charge. [#itsadud](#)



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Andrew Podger, ex-head of Dept of Health and honorary professor of public policy at ANU describes private health insurance policy as "a hotchpotch of subsidies and regulations that are confusing, distorting, costly and inequitable." [#itsadud](#)



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It's not just you.....Scott Pape, the Barefoot Investor, says that private health insurance is "probably screwing you over" and isn't worthwhile for anyone under 31 or anyone earning less than \$90,000 a year. [#itsadud](#)



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