



Unit 17G
Level 1
2 King Street
Deakin ACT 2600
T (+61) 2 6202 1000
F (+61) 2 6202 1001
E admin@ahia.org.au
www.ahia.org.au

PRESIDENT
Mr Richard Bowden
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Hon Dr Michael Armitage

Mr Elton Humphery
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Humphery

SUBMISSION – PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2009

The Australian Health Insurance Association (AHIA) thanks the Senate for the opportunity to make a contribution to the Senate Community Affairs Committee's inquiry into the provisions of the *Private Health Insurance Amendment Bill 2009*.

The AHIA is the peak body for the Australian Private Health Insurance Industry. The AHIA represents 23 health funds, which collectively provide health care benefits to more than 10 million Australians.

The AHIA endorses the proposed legislation and congratulates the Australian Government on the policy initiative. The legislation corrects an anomaly which arose from the implementation of the *Private Health Insurance Act 2007*.

This legislation will allow Private Health Funds the opportunity to continue to offer extended family policies on a permanent basis to accommodate dependents, including those who are not full-time students, aged between 18 and 24 years. This important policy change will allow funds to continue to support the health care needs of younger Australians.

Please feel free to contact me on 02 6202 1000 for any further information related to the AHIA's submission to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael Armitage'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

HON DR MICHAEL ARMITAGE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

5 June 2009