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Private Health Insurance Legislation Amendment Bill 2009

In accordance with a Senate Resolution of 14 May 2009 to refer certain budget-related bills to Senate Committees, the provisions of the Private Health Insurance Legislation Amendment Bill 2009 have been referred to the Community Affairs Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 16 June 2009.

The Bill may be accessed via the link: <u>Legislation and documentation relating to the Bill</u> The Bill contains amendments that will permanently allow private health insurers to offer extended family policies that cover people aged 18 to 24 and consequential amendments to the Private Health Insurance Act consistent with the introduction of the National Joint Replacement Register Levy.

Due to the short inquiry timeframe, the Committee is initially seeking an indication by 5 June as to whether you have any comments on the Bill. If groups indicate that they wish to comment on the Bill, a public hearing will be held on 11 or 12 June in Canberra. In the interim the Committee invites you to provide written comments or a submission addressing the issues or concerns that may be of relevance to you. The Committee prefers to receive submissions electronically as an attached document – email: <u>community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au</u> – otherwise by fax (02 6277 5829).

Submissions become Committee documents and are made public only after a decision by the Committee. Publication of submissions includes loading them onto the internet and their being available to other interested parties including the media. Persons making submissions must not release them without the approval of the Committee. Submissions are covered by parliamentary privilege but the unauthorised release of them is not protected. Information relating to Senate Committee inquiries, including notes to assist in the preparation of submissions for a Committee, can be located on the Internet at http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/wit_sub/index.htm

If you wish to indicate interest in providing comments on this Bill or require further information please contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 3515 or by email to the above address.