

Date 8.30am Thursday 25 September 2008

Subject nib analysing business impact following rejection of Medicare Levy Surcharge changes

Last night the Senate rejected the Federal Government's Medicare Levy Surcharge (MLS) Threshold Bill. In response nib holdings limited (nib) is in the process of analysing the impact on its business following this decision.

nib confirmed it will provide further guidance as soon as the analysis is complete.

nib's Managing Director, Mark Fitzgibbon said the MLS had been one of several factors which has contributed to increased private health insurance participation in recent years.

"The recent MLS debate reflects the difficulty this and any future Government will face in shifting away from the notion of people taking increased responsibility for their healthcare. An ageing population and growing dependency ratio demands future policy be directed at encouraging private health insurance uptake and reducing the burden on the public health system so that those who can least afford medical treatment can still access quality healthcare.

"We are in the process of analysing the impacts on our business projections following the Senate's rejection of the MLS Threshold Bill and will provide further guidance when this is complete."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

MEDIA & INVESTOR RELATIONS

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