

Date:

12 January 1999

Subject

Rebate continues to generate healthy interest

Traffic volume through the NIB Health Funds Call Centre continues to build as the public responds to the Federal Government's 30% rebate on health insurance.

Call Centre operators have been inundated with calls from December 11, the day after Senate passed legislation providing the rebate to all health fund members.

The NIB Call Centre handled almost 2000 enquiries yesterday and has again been kept busy today with a constant stream of callers.

Managing Director of NIB, Mr Colin Rogers, said the calls had been divided between people enquiring about membership, and existing members using the 30% rebate to upgrade their present level of cover.

"For many of our members, the rebate has enabled them to upgrade their present cover and still pay less than they are at present," Mr Rogers said.

"We are also signing many new members over the phone, and forwarding application forms in the mail to the majority of the others.

"Our experience since the passage of legislation two weeks ago suggests that the rebate will certainly achieve its objective of encouraging more people to think again about the benefits of private health cover.

"This is encouraging news for NIB and the nation's health system as a whole because it will result in excess capacity in the private being used to ease the burden on resources in the public system."

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