

Date:	31 May 2004
Subject	NIB Health Funds Building Relationships with Medical Providers

NIB Health Funds Limited (NIB) has created a position to foster closer working relationships with health professionals.

NIB's Provider Relations Manager, Dr Andrew Cottrill, will be seeking to strengthen relationships with hospitals, clinicians, allied health professionals and health supplier organisations.

NIB presently has agreements with 329 private hospitals and day surgeries across Australia, while approximately 12,400 providers are participating in NIB's MediGap initiative, which eliminates gap payments on hospital services for NIB members.

"NIB has a sound working relationship with these groups, but I believe there is enormous potential to develop stronger links that deliver further improvements in the quality of care that NIB members receive," Dr Cottrill said.

"At NIB, we understand that we have to look at value, not just costs, when it comes to improving member health care.

"This approach is slightly different from the traditional role that health funds have assumed, and it has certainly been appreciated by the private hospitals and medical providers with whom I have already spoken."

Dr Cottrill brings impressive credentials to NIB.

He has over five years experience as a medical practitioner, having worked in hospital, primary care and general practice, where he was involved in the development of clinical pathways and treatment protocols.

Dr Cottrill also has extensive health insurance industry experience both locally and internationally, having worked in National Health in England and in the South African private and public health systems. He also holds an MBA from Cambridge University, England.

NIB considers Dr Cottrill's first hand experience at developing collaborative relationships with health professionals and health system administrators a significant advantage for the fund.

"Private health cover is a vital part of Australia's health care system and NIB will be working with hospitals, specialists and other health professionals to deliver the best outcome for NIB members," Dr Cottrill said.

NIB Health Funds Limited
A.B.N. 83 000 124 381

Head Office
384 Hunter Street
Newcastle NSW 2300

Phone: 13 14 63
Fax: 02 4921 2444
Web: nib.com.au

Retail centres around Australia

A not for profit registered
health benefits organisation