

For immediate release

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## 6.5 million Aussies to switch or ditch health cover

- ➔ On 1 April 2017 health insurance premiums rates will have risen over 50% on average since 2010
- ➔ Half of Australians with health insurance will be reviewing their cover before April 1
- ➔ [finder.com.au](http://finder.com.au) encourages Aussies to shop around and pay 12 months up front to beat the price hike

**13 February, 2017, Sydney, Australia** – With an average premium increase of 4.8% approved on Friday, 6.5 million Australians will be reviewing their health insurance policies before 1 April 2017, according to new research by [finder.com.au](http://finder.com.au), Australia’s most visited comparison website.<sup>1</sup>

A [finder.com.au](http://finder.com.au) survey of 2,031 Australians found more than one in three (36%) would switch providers for a better deal, while almost one in four (22%) would abandon their cover altogether if their health fund raised their premiums by over five per cent this year.

Bessie Hassan, Money Expert at [finder.com.au](http://finder.com.au), said the cost of private health insurance, which ranges from \$28.55 per month for the cheapest basic hospital cover to \$317.45 for top cover, was outweighing the benefits for thousands of policyholders.

“When the increase takes effect on 1 April average health insurance costs will have jumped by over 50% since 2010, causing financial strain for many Australians,” she said.

According to research by [finder.com.au](http://finder.com.au), Australians will be paying an extra \$191 on average this year, with the average cost of hospital and extras cover in Australia to rise to \$4,138.50.

“Each health will raise its premium at a different rate, for example out of the big four health funds, not-for-profit HCF has the lowest average increase, raising its premiums by just 3.65%, while outside of the big four, the restricted fund CBHS has the lowest average increase, with its premiums going up by just 2.98%,” said Ms Hassan.

Ms Hassan urged Australians to [shop around for health insurance](#) as premiums continue to rise.

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<sup>1</sup> Experian Hitwise since 2015

[finder.com.au](https://finder.com.au) tips for beating the health insurance price hike:

**Review your current cover** - Look at what you've claimed for over the last 12 months. Are you paying for extras that you don't need? If yes, then you might be better off switching to a lower cover with less extras or taking out hospital only cover.

**Pay 12 months up front** - By paying your annual premium up front before 1 April, not only will you be able to lock-in a price based on current costs but many health insurers offer additional incentives, for example HIF offers a 4% discount for annual payments.

**Mix and match** - You might be better off taking out hospital cover with one insurer and extras cover with another for a policy tailored specifically to your needs.

**Family hospital cover by state (most expensive to least expensive)**

State	Current average monthly premium (rounded)	Current average annual premium (rounded)	Average annual premium with 4.8% increase (rounded)	Annual difference (rounded)
VIC	\$396	\$4,757	\$4,985	\$228
QLD	\$385	\$4,615	\$4,837	\$222
TAS	\$370	\$4,437	\$4,650	\$213
SA	\$369	\$4,428	\$4,640	\$213
ACT	\$365	\$4,376	\$4,586	\$210
NSW	\$365	\$4,376	\$4,586	\$210
WA	\$331	\$3,972	\$4,163	\$191
NT	\$294	\$3,531	\$3,700	\$169

Source: [finder.com.au/health-insurance](https://finder.com.au/health-insurance)



**Family hospital & extras cover by state (most expensive to least expensive)**

State	Average monthly (rounded)	Average annually (rounded)	Average annually with 4.8% increase (rounded)	Annual difference (rounded)
VIC	\$538	\$6,456	\$6,766	\$310

<b>QLD</b>	\$530	\$6,354	\$6,659	\$305
<b>SA</b>	\$520	\$6,240	\$6,540	\$300
<b>ACT</b>	\$517	\$6,202	\$6,500	\$298
<b>NSW</b>	\$517	\$6,202	\$6,500	\$298
<b>TAS</b>	\$506	\$6,068	\$6,359	\$291
<b>WA</b>	\$473	\$5,677	\$5,949	\$272
<b>NT</b>	\$438	\$5,253	\$5,505	\$252

Source: [finder.com.au/health-insurance](http://finder.com.au/health-insurance)



[finder.com.au](http://finder.com.au) has published [a full list](#) of what the health rate increase will look like for each health fund in 2017. Aussies can also visit [finder.com.au/health-insurance](http://finder.com.au/health-insurance) to compare all 35 funds over 65,000 policies.

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