



Health Committee Newsletter: April 2017

NZ Health Insurers

Record \$1.136 billion paid in health insurance claims

2016 set a [new record for claims made on health insurance](#), increasing 9.4 per cent on 2015 as health insurers funded record levels of elective surgery. Total premiums paid also increased.

The Health Funds Association would like to see the Government recognise the value of people paying for their own cover through the removal of fringe benefit tax on health insurance paid for by companies for their workers.

AIA introduces “cancer treatment benefit” option

Insurer AIA has added an optional [cancer treatment benefit](#) to its trauma insurance policies. This is aimed at helping policyholders afford immunotherapy cancer drugs not paid for by either the state healthcare system, or their medical insurer.

Cover of up to \$500,000 can be bought, and AIA hopes that this will increase the appeal of its trauma policy to people who already have health insurance, but are worried their cover is too limited.

Public Health in NZ

Research study into measuring unmet health need

The Association of Salaried Medical Specialists (ASMS) has issued a [press release](#) on the results of a research study published in the latest issue of the New Zealand Medical Journal. The study results suggest at least 25% of adults are not able to get the primary health care they require and the unmet secondary need is about 9%.

Rising demand in mental health services

The New Zealand Association of Counsellors says that a [reassessment of mental health services](#) from the ground up is needed as providers are struggling to keep up with increasing demand.

Healthy Ageing Strategy

Published by the Ministry of Health in December 2016, the [Healthy Ageing Strategy](#) presents the overarching direction and action plan for the next 10 years in regards to the health and wellbeing of older people.

Ministry of Health data publications

Data published by the Ministry of Health since October 2016:

- New Zealand Health Survey:
 - [Tier 1 statistics 2014/15](#)
 - [Annual update 2015/16](#)
 - [Private Health Insurance Coverage 2011–15](#)
- [Mortality 2014 data tables](#)
- [Suicide Facts: 2014 data](#)
- Cancer:
 - [New registrations and deaths 2013](#)
 - [New registrations 2014](#)
- [Mental Health and Addiction: Service use 2014/15](#)