

THOUSANDS OF PATIENTS TO BE IMPACTED BY HEALTH INSURANCE DISPUTE WITH MAJOR HOSPITAL GROUP

More than 800,000 people in Sydney and Melbourne insured by 31 private health insurance funds (list at bottom) are in danger of losing access to 11 private hospitals operated by one of Australia's largest hospital groups, Macquarie Health Corporation amid a dispute with the Australian Health Service Alliance (AHSA).

AHSA are refusing to fund Macquarie's hospitals at the same level as other private hospitals. As a result Macquarie Health has been forced to provide AHSA's member funds with a notice of termination of its Business Partnership Agreement, which will take effect on March 17, 2026.

AHSA has refused to engage or respond to Macquarie on the matter, stonewalling any resolution. Macquarie has contacted the Commonwealth Ombudsman to help resolve the dispute.

Over the last year Macquarie hospitals have provided care for 11,026 AHSA patients and over 27,315 bed days – among the largest of any hospital groups in Australia. Yet AHSA will not adequately compensate Macquarie going forward.

Only immediate action by AHSA to help resolve matters will avoid major patient cost rises.

Macquarie Hospital Group CE David Wenkart said "Sadly, unless AHSA returns to the table, our contracts with AHSA will terminate next month and we will be left with no alternative but to charge AHSA fund members an out of pocket charge to access Macquarie hospitals. Macquarie has private health insurance contracts with all other major health funds. "AHSA's belligerence will result in its members being disadvantaged as compared with members of other health funds."

The dispute concerns Equal Pay for Equal Service and fair indexation. "AHSA repeatedly refused to fairly compensate Macquarie's full network of facilities and to recognise the substantial cost and inflationary increases facing Macquarie hospitals. AHSA's position places unreasonable pressure on Macquarie and its customers at a time when private hospitals are under substantial strain", he added.

Mr Wenkart concluded "Macquarie still hopes to reach agreement with AHSA prior to the contract termination date."

Issued By:

Tim Allerton

City PR

0412 715 707.

Macquarie Health Hospitals

MHC Hospitals

NSW – Ashfield

The Sydney Private Hospital

NSW – Rooty Hill

Minchinbury Community Hospital

NSW – Guildford

Holroyd Private Hospital

NSW – Dee Why

Delmar Private Hospital

Rehabilitation

NSW – Manly

Manly Waters Private Hospital

NSW – Longueville

Longueville Private Hospital

NSW – Kirrawee

President Private Hospital

NSW – Randwick

Eastern Suburbs Private Hospital

VICTORIA – Boronia

Melbourne Eastern Private Hospital

VIC – Malvern East

Malvern Private Hospital

VIC – Essendon West

Essendon Private Clinic

AHSA Member Funds

ACA Health Benefits Fund	Health Care Insurance Limited	Queensland Country Health Fund Ltd
AIA Health Insurance	Health Insurance Fund of Aus Ltd (HIF)	RACQ Health Insurance
Australian Unity Health Limited	Health Partners	Reserve Bank Health Society Ltd
CBHS Corporate Health Pty Ltd	Latrobe Health Services	See-u
CBHS Health Fund Limited	Navy Health	Teachers Health Fund
Defence Health	Nurses & Midwives Health Pty Ltd	The Doctors' Health Fund Pty Ltd
Emergency Services Health Pty Ltd	Onemedifund	Teachers Union Health (TUH)
Frank Health Insurance	Peoplecare Health Insurance	Territory Health Fund
GMHBA	Phoenix Health Fund	UniHealth Insurance
HBF Health Ltd (previously CUA)	Police Health Limited	Union Health
		Westfund