



TOM VENNING MP

Member for Grey



MEDIA RELEASE

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REGIONAL SOUTH AUSTRALIA FACING \$807 PRIVATE HEALTH SHOCK

23,673 residents across the federal electorate of Grey are facing a financial blow as Labor's proposed cuts to private health insurance rebates will hit over 65s with premium increases of up to \$807 a year. The changes risk forcing thousands of families and seniors to abandon their private coverage entirely, a move Member for Grey Tom Venning MP warns will trigger a shift of patients into regional South Australia's already struggling public hospital system.

Statistics show that private health funds currently cover 26,032 hospital admissions annually in the electorate, injecting \$111.4 million in hospital benefits into local healthcare. Mr Venning believes any drop in coverage will directly jeopardise care for aging regional populations where the average admitted patient is 61 years old and nearly half of all admissions fall between the ages of 65 and 84.

Quotes attributable to Tom Venning MP Member for Grey

"This is an assault on the hip pockets of seniors and families across Grey who are already drowning in a cost-of-living crisis. Forcing regional Australians to find an extra \$807 a year just to keep their health cover is a shock, effectively punishing people who have worked hard to take responsibility for their own healthcare."

"We are told to get into private health insurance as early as we can, to look after our own health, and be self-sufficient as we age. Yet this government have decided to shift the goal posts for the very people that need it the most, at a time in their lives when income for many of them reduces and the needs for specialty health services increases."

"This is a disaster for regional public hospitals. We have nearly 90,000 people in Grey who invest in private health insurance, taking pressure off the public system. If Labor forces a chunk of these people to cancel their policies, our regional waitlists will expand, and our local doctors and nurses will be left to pick up the pieces."

"The data shows that this isn't a luxury for the wealthy, it is a lifeline for regular people in regional communities. In Grey, the average patient age is 61, and almost 19% of all privately covered hospitalisations are cancer related. Chronic conditions require reliable care, and this policy directly threatens this care."

*"I refuse to stand by while our older generation is forced to carry the burden of Labor's cruel cuts. If these changes are going to hit your household budget, I urge you to make your voice heard immediately by joining the **Hands Off Your Health Cover** petition so we can fight this terrible decision together." - PETITION LINK: <https://www.liberal.org.au/handsoffhealth>*

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