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## MEDIA RELEASE

**PRESIDENT**  
 Mr Terry Smith MBE RFD ED  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**  
 Hon Dr Michael Armitage

### AHIA survey shows increase in high claims for under 30s.

The Australian Health Insurance Association's annual High Claims Survey\* has revealed an increase of more than 8 percent in the number of high claims paid for people under 30 years of age during 2007.

AHIA CEO, Hon Dr Michael Armitage said the survey was further evidence that young Australians did use their private health insurance and made significant claims for non discretionary procedures.

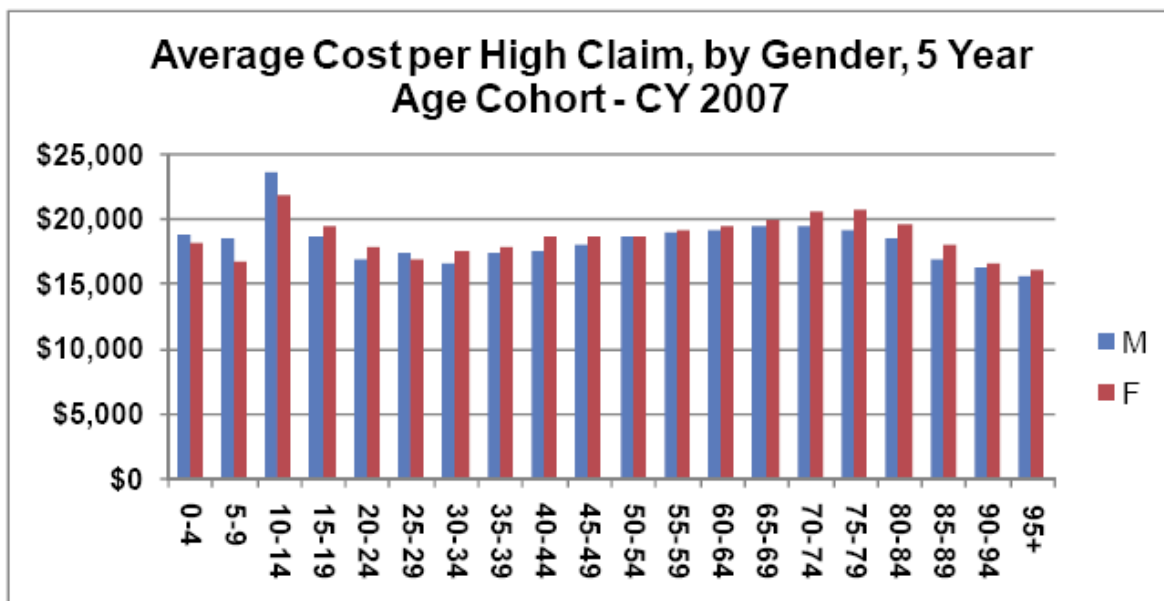
Total benefits paid by health funds for claims over \$10,000 for under-30s, was \$88 million in 2007.

Health funds paid 4,739 claims of more than \$10,000 for under-30s in 2007, an increase of 375 or 8.6% on the previous year. (*Top 30 claims attached*)

Of the 4,739 claims:

- The highest claim cost more than \$190,000 for neurosurgery
- Nine of the top 30 high claims involved heart procedures
- Nine of the top 30 high claims involved spinal procedures

Dr Armitage said the annual survey also found that the average cost for high claims was constant across age groups and gender.



\*The AHIA Annual High Claims Survey is collated using data from 35 Australian nationally registered health benefits organisations which represent 99.1% of the Private Health Insurance Industry.



## AHIA Annual High Claims Survey - Calendar Year 2007

### Top 30 Selected High Claims, LESS THAN 30 YEARS OF AGE(excl. premature births)

TOTAL Benefits Paid	Age	Gender	General Description	Number of Bed Days	Hospital
\$190,381	19	F	Neurosurgery	49	Private
\$144,180	28	F	Crohn's disease	59	Private
\$120,952	17	M	Bone marrow diseases	214	Public
\$110,537	17	M	Cardiac surgery	1	Private
\$99,879	2	F	Brain surgery	322	Private
\$89,873	17	M	Aneurysm	22	Private
\$87,106	27	M	Cancer of the spine	16	Private
\$83,147	26	M	Viral Encephalitis	178	Public
\$78,492	8	F	Lung surgery requiring mechanical ventilation support	70	Private
\$77,127	21	M	Rectal surgery	144	Public
\$74,743	20	F	Surgery for correction of scoliosis	17	Private
\$70,925	16	M	Surgery for correction of scoliosis	15	Private
\$69,888	17	M	Obstetrics requiring mechanical ventilation support	23	Private
\$68,476	18	M	Insertion of Defibrillator	1	Private
\$68,264	23	F	Post Traumatic Stress Disorder	214	Private
\$68,070	25	M	Replacement of Artificial Implanted Cardiac Device	3	Private
\$67,075	29	F	Insertion of Defibrillator	2	Private
\$66,519	16	F	Leukaemia	127	Public
\$65,450	24	M	Replacement of Artificial Implanted Cardiac Device	2	Private
\$65,360	15	M	Surgery for correction of scoliosis	14	Private
\$65,168	22	M	Replacement of Artificial Implanted Cardiac Device	1	Private
\$64,970	14	M	Spinal surgery	8	Private
\$64,171	23	M	Spinal surgery	8	Private
\$63,511	28	F	Surgery for correction of scoliosis	13	Private
\$63,415	19	F	Surgery for correction of scoliosis	46	Public
\$62,429	20	M	Insertion of Defibrillator	1	Private
\$62,384	19	M	Cardiac surgery	2	Private
\$60,492	14	M	Spinal surgery	15	Private
\$59,452	14	M	Insertion of Defibrillator	3	Private
\$58,915	19	M	Replacement of Artificial Implanted Cardiac Device	1	Private