



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

Media Release

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Medicare Gold Star for Newcastle

49% of Newcastle voters have private health insurance so Mark Latham’s announcement of Labor’s Medicare Gold will mean lower health premiums to almost half of my electorate.

But for the 11,412 Novocastrians who are over 75, those in private health insurance just received the offer of about \$20 per week back into their household budget, with the assurance that they can have the operations they need without waiting on year long lists for knee, hip and eye operations.

In Newcastle these two measures added to the tax relief of \$8 per week for the 90% of Novocastrians John Howard overlooked plus the quarterly indexed payment to Newcastle’s 28,332 pensioners would mean a Labor government would deliver approximately an extra \$700 000 flowing into Newcastle’s economy every week. A potential boost of over \$38 million a year to Newcastle’s prosperity.

“Labor’s policies of opportunity are right for Newcastle.” said Sharon Grierson MP

Calculations:

28,332 pensioners x \$5 savings per week from indexation	= \$ 141 660
43,000 health insurance premiums x \$4 savings per week.	= \$ 172 000
“Over 75” Medicare Gold premium savings x \$20 per week	= \$ 22 820
50,123 working Novocastrians x \$8 per week tax relief	= \$ 400 989
TOTAL = \$ 737 469	

Note:

- Private Health Insurance Participation Rates for Newcastle provided by Australian Health Insurance Association.
- Pension rate and workforce participation rate from 2001 Census data.
- To estimate the number of over 75s who have health insurance, an approximation of 10% was made.
- Total workforce participation rate for Newcastle is 55,693.

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