

Zikhona Mbele is taking over from Sanjay Omnath as CLO

Farewell Sanjay!

After 15 years of AMS service, Sanjay Omnath, our Client Liaison Officer (CLO) for the central region will be retiring at the end of this month. We would like to express our gratitude for the exceptional service he has provided to the Scheme. His dedication and commitment to always go the extra mile, to care for our members, and the reliable service he provided to our employers will continue to inspire us. Sanjay, we wish you all the best as you step into this new chapter of your life. May it be filled with joy, relaxation, good health, and all the things you love. Here are some words for you from Sanjay, "It is with a blend of nostalgia and anticipation that I will embark on my early retirement at the end of June 2024. It has been an honour serving AMS as CLO. I had the opportunity to gain memorable experiences and the privilege to meet some incredible people which I will forever cherish. Thank you to everyone who has been a part of my journey. A special thanks to the Scheme's office, trustees, all the members and employers who have made my journey worthwhile and successful.

I also extend my heartiest congratulations to my successor, Zikhona Mbele, and wish her all the success on her AMS journey".



Welcome Zikhona!

Zikhona joined Discovery in 2021 as a Contact Centre Consultant and was promoted to Onsite Client Relationship Manager in 2022, where she has been servicing members. With Sanjay's retirement, she is excited to have now the opportunity to step into the CLO role. Zikhona is a people-person with a degree

in public management from the University of Johannesburg. Eager to join the AMS service team, she looks forward to supporting our members.

Please join us in welcoming Zikhona to the AMS family!

Key highlights from the AGM

On 22 May 2024, we conducted our 55th Annual General Meeting as a virtual event. We were encouraged by the robust participation of 87 members, representatives from the Council of Medical Schemes, service providers, and consultants. It was an honour to also welcome several of our esteemed former Alternate Trustees, Trustees, and Chairmen to the meeting.

In her inaugural AGM as AMS' Principal Officer, Julia le Roux introduced the newly elected Board of Trustees, emphasising their collective 94 years of remarkable experience in member services. The Chairman, Dr Fox shared key highlights from the Annual Report, focusing on the Scheme's performance in 2023. Dr Fox also reported that the president signed the NHI bill into law on 15 May 2024 and noted that the NHI Act and its regulations are still awaiting promulgation. He reassured members that, given the potential for legal challenges and a lengthy implementation process, Scheme business and operations will continue as usual. The Board is vigilantly monitoring the NHI's progress and is committed to keeping members informed of any further developments.

Marius Jacobs, Deputy General Manager of Discovery InHouse Schemes, highlighted the 2023 Annual Report's key points. He offered insights into the new International Financial

Reporting Standard, IFRS 17, and detailed how our financial reporting has transformed post-implementation. Despite the report's altered appearance, he assured members that the Scheme's performance and reserve management remain consistent. The meeting adopted the 2023 Annual Report.

The Chairman confirmed the Scheme's receipt of an unqualified audit, and PWC was reappointed as the Scheme's auditor by the meeting. Members elected Philip Laubscher, Renita Naicker, and Bongani Bhengu to the Disputes Committee for the next year. The Chairman then reported on the Trustee fees for the forthcoming year.

The Principal Officer reported on the Scheme's operations. She highlighted the Scheme's successful service delivery and high member satisfaction, reassuring members of the Scheme's unwavering commitment to a member-centric approach. She illustrated the Scheme's support for its members by citing the top three highest claims paid out for individual members.

These included a claim of R4.6 million for a coronary bypass, and two claims of R3.39 million and R3.36 million, respectively, both for septicaemia cases, and informed members that the total payout for the top ten highest claims by the Scheme amounted to R26.37 million.

The Principal Officer also announced the upcoming retirement of Sanjay Omnath, who has served as the Client Liaison Officer for the Gauteng region for over 15 years. She expressed her gratitude for his unwavering dedication and exceptional customer service to the members of AMS and wished him well for his retirement.

In closing, the Chairman affirmed that the Board prioritises decisions aimed at the long-term enhancement of the health and wellbeing of all our members.

To watch the recording of the AGM and Dr Ron Whelan's presentation on NHI, log in to the member area on www.angloms.co.za and go to "My Scheme > Annual General Meeting".

NHI update from Dr Ron Whelan, CEO of Discovery Health

We are grateful for Dr Whelan's comprehensive update on the National Health Insurance (NHI) after our AGM. We encourage you to view the recorded presentation to gain a thorough understanding of this complex subject. The main points of his presentation were:

- NHI is now an act of law, but certain sections still need to be proclaimed.
- Discovery unequivocally supports universal health coverage and believes that a workable NHI is central to achieving this. The current NHI Act, however, is unworkable without private sector collaboration and funding.
- Discovery sees no impact on medical schemes for the foreseeable future for the following reasons:

Significant funding gap and no clear financial plan or Money Bill for the NHI

Given South Africa's current healthcare expenditure, the NHI's estimated annual costs range from R480bn to R520bn. If all 60 million citizens were to access this fund and receive healthcare services from the NHI, an additional R200bn in taxes would need to be raised. To fund the NHI through taxes would mean a 31% increase in personal income tax (risking a skills exodus from South Africa), a 6.5% increase in VAT (which would adversely affect the poor), or a tenfold increase in payroll tax (which is unsustainable). Raising R200bn is a daunting, if not impossible, task given South Africa's fiscal situation, as confirmed by the treasury.

Implementing the NHI is extraordinarily complex

It would necessitate a complete overhaul of both the public and private health systems, a task of enormous magnitude.

This transformation would require significant resources and investment and would be unprecedented on a global scale. The current public provincial healthcare funding would need to transition to national funding, a change outlined in the NHI Act to only commence in 2032. The NHI would be responsible for administering the healthcare funding of 60 million people. In comparison, Discovery Health, with 5,000 staff members, administers 3.5 million members of medical schemes. The state would need between 50,000 and 60,000 employees to administer benefits for the NHI.

Wide-ranging and unprecedented legal challenges

A broad spectrum of stakeholders, including healthcare providers, political entities, civil society, the medical scheme industry, and economic interest groups, are likely to present extensive and unprecedented legal challenges. These challenges could result in prolonged litigation. The focus of these legal disputes will be on constitutional, technical, and various procedural flaws in the NHI Act for all citizens.

Section 33 only imposes restrictions on medical schemes once the NHI is fully implemented. However, due to the aforementioned challenges, full implementation could still be decades away.

Despite the flaws, Discovery fights for a workable NHI to the benefit of all South Africans, including potential liquidation. The goal is to foster a collaborative model for funding and implementation, involving both the private and public sectors. The private sector, with its vast experience and resources has much to contribute to a workable NHI.

Your 2023/2024 tax certificate is on route

You will receive your tax certificate via email or post. You can also download it on www.angloms.co.za, the AMS app, request it via WhatsApp (Ask AMS 011 292 8797), or from the Call Centre.

Do you have membership or Scheme questions? Contact us on the numbers and addresses listed here:

Value Care Plan: 0861 665 665 | anglo@primecure.co.za | Standard and Managed Care Plans: 0860 222 633 | member@angloms.co.za and claims@angloms.co.za

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