

Welcoming your new Board of Trustees

The 2024 Trustee elections have concluded, and we extend our gratitude to all members who participated in this process by nominating and voting for Trustees.

The election process

The nomination process commenced on 26 January 2024, followed by the voting phase, which concluded on 29 April 2024, after which an independent election audit took place. A total of 17 Nominees participated, and 2 077 votes were received. We are pleased to share that Strachan & Crouse, the independent auditors we engaged for the election process, confirmed that based on the procedures conducted and the absence of any discrepancies identified, it can be confirmed that all Nominees met eligibility requirements, the voting process maintained integrity for a fair outcome and the verification of voting results confirmed accuracy in the election outcome.

Member-elected Trustees

The elected Trustees who will guide our Scheme in the coming term are:

- Joe Coetzer
- Colleen Elliott
- Dr Frank Fox
- Sharon Hosking
- Nicholas Mason-Gordon
- Dr Charles Mbekeni

Employer-appointed Trustees

In addition to our member-elected Trustees, our participating employers have appointed the following individuals to serve on the Board:

- Craig Barrett
- James Liston
- Nare Mamabolo
- Raynagan Moodley
- Hugh Thompson
- Bridget van der Bijl

A wealth of experience

We are thankful for our Board's continuity and our Trustees' experience. Our new Board of Trustees have 94 years of collective experience in Scheme leadership and serving AMS members. Their expertise also extends beyond AMS, as many have contributed to other medical schemes and/or pension funds.

Your Chair and Vice-Chair

Dr Frank Fox has been elected by the Board as the new Chairman, and Joe Coetzer will serve as the Vice Chairman. The new Board of Trustees took up office at the Annual General Meeting on 22 May 2024 and will serve for the next 5 years.

To our Trustees, thank you for making yourselves available and for taking on this crucial role to ensure the continued success of AMS.

Peace of mind from day one: How AMS assured my young family

When life takes unexpected turns, having a reliable medical aid can make all the difference. At AMS, we understand the importance of trust, especially during life-changing moments. Let us share the story of André*, who found peace of mind from the very first day of his AMS membership.

The journey begins

"In September 2015, my wife and I embarked on a new chapter as a married couple. With dreams of an overseas adventure and plans to start a family, we knew that having reliable medical cover for the unforeseen things in life was essential. Little did we know that life had more surprises in store."

A new position and a growing family

"Fast forward to March 2019, I received a promotion at work: a managerial position at Vergelegen Wine Estate. Along with this exciting opportunity came an offer to join the Anglo

Medical Scheme. However, there was a twist - my wife was seven months pregnant at the time."

The dilemma

"Facing this pivotal moment, I had to make a crucial decision. Changing my medical aid at that time in my wife's pregnancy was very scary. We had to give two months' notice to our now previous medical aid, which would end our cover on 30 April 2019. But with the due date for our baby girl set for 10 May, anxiety crept in. Would we have adequate cover from 1 May 2019?"

Understanding our members' concerns

At AMS, we empathise with our members' worries - in this case the cost of childbirth. In 2023, the average expenses for uncomplicated deliveries of our members' babies ranged from R33,000 for natural births to R57,000 for Caesarian deliveries. However, what happens when complications arise?

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*Names of our members used in MediBrief articles are changed to protect their privacy.

The high stakes of neonatal ICU care

When neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) events come into play, especially for premature babies, the financial landscape shifts dramatically. In some cases, costs can even soar beyond the million-rand mark. At AMS, we are committed to providing comprehensive support, ensuring that our members receive the care they need without undue financial burden.

Trusting in AMS

"The membership team at AMS stepped in with encouragement. They assured me that my worry was unnecessary. From doctor visits, scans, and hospital care, AMS promised to be there every step of the way. My uncertainty lifted, and I really felt supported during this critical time."

The arrival of baby Bianca

"On 10 May 2019, the big moment arrived: the birth of our

daughter, Bianca. AMS lived up to its promise, covering our expenses seamlessly and ensuring there were no administrative hurdles. The Scheme's efficient service and genuine care allowed us to fully focus on our baby and embrace parenthood from day one."

A professional and caring experience

"As a young family, we were really impressed by the professionalism we encountered. Whether it was the friendly voice at the call centre, the timely updates via email, or the reliable payments of provider claims; AMS proved that trust wasn't just a word – it was their commitment."

Our commitment to you

As a member of AMS, you can be assured that, as with André, we will be there for you when it matters most. We thrive to give you peace of mind on a daily base, but even more so for life's unexpected moments.

NHI Update

The National Health Insurance (NHI) Bill was signed into law by President Cyril Ramaphosa on 15 May 2024. While we understand that the amount and content of recent headlines might worry you, we can assure you that there is no immediate change for you. Full implementation of the Act is a complex process that will occur incrementally over many years.

Key points:

- The objective of the NHI Act is to ensure universal access to quality healthcare services for all citizens, aligning with international standards and the Constitution.
- The NHI Act has not been promulgated yet and existing laws still apply.
- Medical Scheme members' benefits and access to healthcare services in South Africa remain unchanged during the transitional period, which will take several years.

Concerns over constitutionality and funding

While the private health care sector in South Africa supports the principle of universal healthcare, it is opposed to the way the NHI Act is being introduced, the uncertainty about the NHI rollout, and crucially, how it is to be funded. The private sector remains cautious about funding mechanisms for the NHI and striking the right balance; implementing the NHI without disrupting existing healthcare structures, is a delicate task. NHI funding requires significant tax policy changes. Additionally, economic prospects play a pivotal role in determining the rollout timeline and success of the NHI. The NHI Act is likely to be constitutionally challenged by several organisations.



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Next steps for the NHI

After being signed into law, the NHI Act requires relevant sections to be promulgated in order for the NHI Fund to be established as an autonomous public entity. Furthermore, the Government needs to continue their work on strengthening the existing health care system, development of NHI regulations and amendments to several other regulations and legislation, as well as establishing institutions to form the foundation for a fully functional fund. The first health care services that are envisioned to be provided by the NHI Fund are for vulnerable groups. Beyond these services, it is not yet determined what the NHI will cover in the future.

The role of medical aids

Medical aids will continue to operate until the NHI is fully implemented, which is expected to take many years, due to the scale and complexity of necessary reforms and improvements of the healthcare sector and our economy. As there are too many unknowns about how the NHI Fund will function, what benefits it will provide and how it will be funded, it is far too early to speculate about the role of medical aids in the long-term.

AMS' commitment

Your Board of Trustees and Scheme management will keep a watchful eye on further developments, consult with industry experts and industry bodies to protect your rights and your access to health care. We are committed to keeping you informed about all relevant developments as they unfold.

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

Visit www.angloms.co.za to learn more about your Scheme and benefits. Log in and find all previous MediBrief editions under My Documents > Knowledge Library