

*Events, developments, and opportunities in the international marketplace.*

### AFFORDABILITY WEIGHING ON AUSTRALIA'S PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE SYSTEM



Australians, primarily the younger generations, are increasingly avoiding private health insurance. According to the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority data, the number of people aged 20 to 29 with hospital cover and general health insurance has dropped by 8% and 5% respectively, over the last three years. As a result, to combat higher claims, rates have risen each year and now premiums are more than 70% higher than in 2010. S&P Global ratings say that the affordability issue has led to Australians reducing their level of cover or dropping health coverage altogether and is expected to worsen in the upcoming years. Furthermore, a consumer sentiment survey finds that 26% of Generation Y do not think their health insurance represents good value for money. Consequently, with fewer young policyholders, premiums are likely to go higher, further hitting the industry's long-term viability.

### PM MODI TO LAUNCH AYUSMAN BHARAT HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME FOR RESIDENTS OF JAMMU & KASHMIR.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the Ayushman Bharat scheme for residents of Jammu & Kashmir. The Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Sehat (PM-JAY-SEHAT) will provide free insurance cover to all residents of the union territory (UT). According to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), the statement includes a financial cover of up to Rs 5 lakh per family on a floater basis. The statement also said that the scheme would operate on insurance mode in convergence with the PM-JAY which is the world's largest health insurance/ assurance scheme fully financed by the Centre. PM-JAY-SEHAT would also ensure universal health coverage along with a focus on providing financial risk protection and ensuring affordable essential health services to all individuals and communities.



### GOVERNMENT STARTS HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME FOR UNINSURED NIGERIANS

The Federal government has launched a health insurance scheme for Nigerians who are not insured by their employers. The Minister of Health launched the Group Individual and Family Social Health Insurance Program (GIFSHIP) which will be run by the Nigerian Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS). Prior to this scheme, 70% of Nigerians paid out-of-pocket for healthcare, even with the presence of NHIS since 2005. The main objective of this scheme is to reduce out-of-pocket spending on healthcare and to achieve universal health care for all citizens and their families. NHIS currently only covers 5% of the population who still complain of poor service delivery of the scheme. The GIFSHIP plans to involve sophisticated technological infrastructure to improve enrollee verification, access to care, data collection, and management. The plan also includes analytics, which will feed into a disease map that will be greatly beneficial in managing public health across the nation. Some of the other appealing features of this program include the built-in mechanisms to guard against adverse selection, moral hazard as well as other features that will help organizations to contribute towards achieving universal health care.

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- Secured group benefits for a biotech firm in Brazil
- Implemented expat policy for a large pharmaceutical firm.

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