

3. How do I obtain a Medicare Card / Health Insurance / Ambulance Cover?



MEDICARE:

The Australian Government provides help with basic medical expenses through a scheme called Medicare. You may be eligible to join Medicare and gain immediate access to health care services and programs. These include free public hospital care, help with the cost of out-of-hospital care, and subsidised medicines.

How to enroll

To enroll in Medicare, you should go into a Medicare office 7 to 10 days after your arrival in Australia and bring your passport or travel documents. There are also many different private health insurance options you may wish to consider, as Medicare does not provide for all services.

Examples: Medicare does not cover dental care, most optical care or ambulance services.

Medicare Australia contact details	
Telephone	13 2011
Homepage	See: Medicare Australia
Medicare Welcome Kit (available in other languages)	See: Medicare Australia Welcome Kit - Choose your language

HEALTH INSURANCE:

Many people choose to pay for private health insurance. Private health insurance funds may cover costs for your treatment as a private patient in private or public hospitals and can include some services that Medicare does not cover, such as dental care, most optical care and ambulance transport. If you wish to purchase private health insurance, it is important to compare different funds. The cost and type of cover can vary widely.

The government has a website which provides detailed information about private health insurance funds, and how the private health system works.

<http://www.privatehealth.gov.au/>

AMBULANCE COVER:

Ambulance Victoria Membership provides 100% cover for all ambulance treatment and transport Australia-wide. It's simple and affordable and helps support the life saving activities of paramedics across the state. Please be aware Medicare does not cover you for ambulance treatment or transport. Join Ambulance Victoria and for only \$5 a month you'll be protected from the high costs mentioned above.

For more information on ambulance membership please visit:

<http://www.ambulance.vic.gov.au/>

References:

Medicare Australia - www.medicareaustralia.gov.au
Ambulance - <http://www.ambulance.vic.gov.au/>

Private Health - <http://www.privatehealth.gov.au/>