

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT UPDATE 2024**

I trust this message finds you in good spirits and that you are taking the necessary time to care for yourselves and your well-being. As we navigate through this year, I wanted to share some important updates and insights based on recent experiences and observations:

**1. Chemist Shops:** In recent years, there have been significant changes in the availability of certain medications and supplies at chemist shops. For instance, a nasal spray that many of you might have relied on is no longer readily available from traditional chemists. However, you can still access such items through a specialty or combined chemist service. It's worth noting that if you have a Department of Veterans' Affairs (D.V.A.) prescription for such items, you will need to obtain a specific approval form from D.V.A. before you can get the medication at no cost. Alternatively, you may have to pay out of pocket if the form is not processed in time. Always keep this in mind when planning your medication needs.

**2. Luxury Car Tax and Vehicle Purchases:** Many of you might be considering purchasing a new vehicle, especially if you require a larger utility vehicle for towing a caravan or other purposes. It's important to be aware of the implications of the Luxury Car Tax (LCT). Currently, if you buy a vehicle priced over \$69,000, you might not be eligible to claim back the full amount of Goods and Services Tax (GST). The tax threshold for LCT has not been adjusted in line with rising vehicle prices, which means you could end up paying more than anticipated. Be sure to factor this into your budget and consult with a financial advisor or tax specialist to fully understand the potential costs involved.

**3. NBN Service Issues:** I recently encountered a situation with my National Broadband Network (NBN) service that may resonate with some of you. After requesting an upgrade to my NBN plan, I received two separate bills—one for each service account I hold. This experience highlighted a common issue where service providers fail to consolidate billing information effectively. If you find yourself in a similar situation, ensure that you reach out to your service provider to clarify and rectify any billing discrepancies. It may also be beneficial to review your account details regularly to avoid unexpected charges and ensure that your service level meets your expectations.

Thank you for your attention to these updates. As always, if you have any questions or need further assistance, please feel free to reach out.

Best regards,