



AMA

MESSAGE TO ALL AUSTRALIAN DOCTORS MEDICAL INDEMNITY

New Federal legislation governing medical indemnity cover will come into force on 1 July 2003.

From that date many doctors will:

- be personally liable for legal awards over the 'cap' on their insurance
- pay substantial indemnity insurance premiums throughout their retirement to cover claims arising from past events.

If you have a private practice you will not be fully insured from 30 June 2003.

Options for doctors with inadequate cover from 1 July 2003 include:

- retirement
- cessation of private practice, continuing in public practice only
- cessation of high-risk procedures such as obstetrics and surgery

Your medical defence organisation may require 30 days notice if you decide to resign or retire on 30 June.

The AMA is lobbying the Government on these issues but time is running out.

If the Government's changes will force you to retire or limit your services to patients, protest in writing to the Prime Minister at Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600 or phone his office on 02 6277 7700. Please advise the AMA of your response by writing to PO Box E115, Kingston ACT 2604.