

## **How the NHI will work over time – Business Live 25 August 2019**

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One of SA's most anticipated pieces of legislation, the National Health Insurance (NHI) Bill, was tabled more than two weeks ago but instead of providing relief it has caused confusion and speculation about the future of health care in the country.

NHI's aim is to provide universal access to quality personal health-care services purchased through the National Health Insurance Fund once it is fully implemented in 2026, but there are concerns about how it will be implemented.

At the top of the list of concerns is the future of medical aid schemes, potential job losses in the private sector and just how much NHI will cost South Africans.

On Wednesday, the health department's deputy director-general for NHI, Anban Pillay, said the situation was not as dire as it seemed. He responded to some of the issues.

"They [medical schemes] will always be there, even when there is full implementation of the NHI. Only at that point of full implementation [will] they take a complementary role. From now on until full implementation, schemes will continue as they are currently," Pillay said.