

## Midyear greetings from the team at CFS

Hopefully this letter finds you well protected from the onset of winter and possibly amazed at how quickly the year has passed! On a personal level I'm a little unhappy that the rain has arrived because mountain biking is more enjoyable in fine weather, but mostly I'm happy that our newly elected government haven't actually changed anything! Sure they've talked about it and even announced the formation of committees to find solutions to unsolvable ongoing societal problems, caused by the strongest force known to man, no not the laws of gravity or magnetism, but the law of self-interest! Even the appointment of committees illustrates this point; no way do the politicians wish to

be blamed for initiating solutions when they can blame the solutions on a committee!

Well our promise remains to you that we'll continue to provide the best devil's advocacy and non-sycophantic advice whilst you expertly navigate your way through life, hoping never to have to use the insurance policies and able to enjoy the fruits of your savings plan.

If we haven't spoken to you in the last year or two please call or email us, it may be that a discussion with Adam, Nick, Yupar or Joy may provide that peace of mind you've been wanting. Otherwise please enjoy some light reading....

## Health Insurance - is it needed?

Excerpts from an article in the NZ Herald written by Michael Woodhouse, President of the New Zealand Private Surgical Hospitals Association.

When goods or a service are both free and desired by the public the demand for them is insatiable. It is not possible to meet all the needs under a public hospital system without a huge investment in public health infrastructure - and even that may not deliver the expected reductions in waiting time.

Demand will continue to grow because we are getting older and more can be done. Forty years ago there was no such thing as a cardiac surgery waiting list. Joint replacement surgery and cataract surgery were in their infancy. All this technology has emerged in the past two generations. More will continue to emerge. While these trends are common to all Western countries, New Zealand is different

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## Health Insurance - is it needed? continued...

because of its failure to recognise the important contribution the private sector makes in our health sector, and the lack of incentives for people to take control of their own health. Few people realise that the private sector does more elective surgery than the public sector.

It is time for all political parties to realistically address the issue and acknowledge that New Zealand's public health system never has and never will meet all the demands placed on it. In

the late 1980s, about 48 per cent of New Zealanders had private health insurance. This has dropped dramatically to as low as 31 percent a few years ago.

Removing fringe benefit tax from employer contributions to the cost of medical insurance may make a significant difference. Further, as the premiums payable for private insurance grow for those approaching retirement, it is in the Government's interest to ensure those citizens remain covered by private insurance. Some form of Government financial support would avoid the burden on the public system and must have a cost benefit.

**IRONY OF LIFE**

Remember those days when people used to write diaries and got mad when someone read them...

Now they put everything on facebook and get mad when people don't read them.

## School life

In class one day, Mrs. Johnson pulled Johnny over to her desk after a test, and said, "Johnny I have a feeling that you have been cheating on your tests."

Johnny was astounded and asked Mrs. Johnson to prove it.

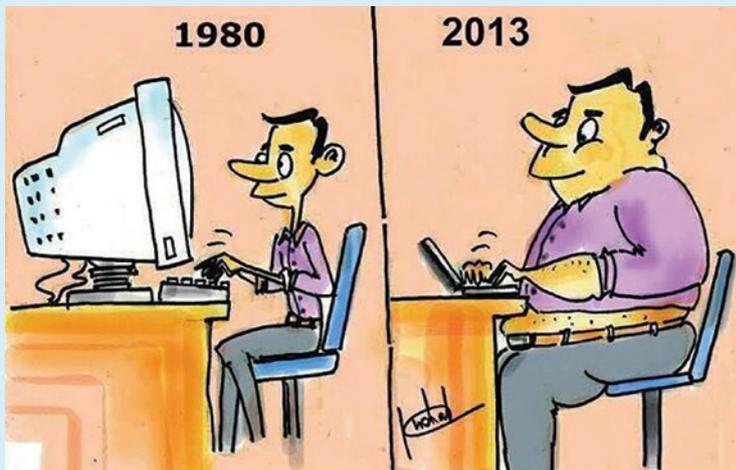
"Well" said Mrs. Johnson, "I was looking over your test and the question was, 'Who is our Prime Minister?' and the little girl that sits next to you, Mary, put 'Jacinda Adern', and so did you."

"So, everyone knows that she is the Prime Minister."

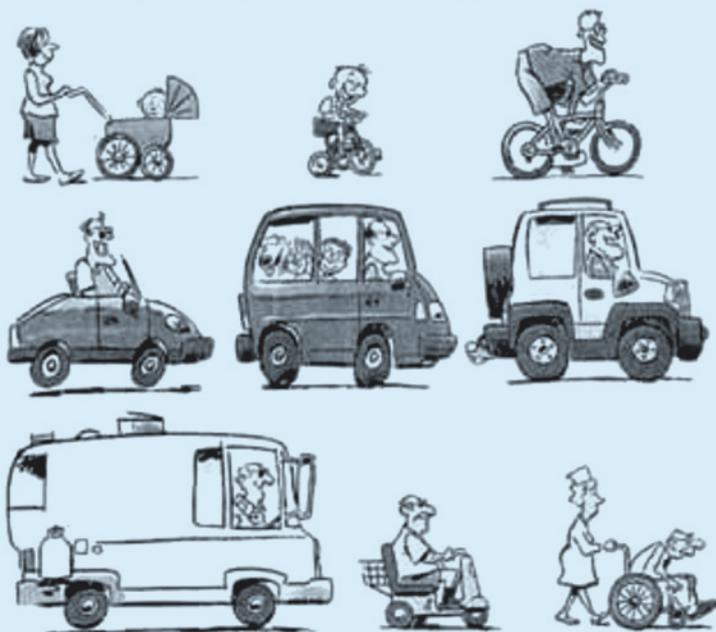
"Well, just wait a minute," said Mrs. Johnson. "The next question was, 'Who are the coalition partners?' Mary put Labour, the Greens and NZ First and so did you."

"Well, I was watching TV news last night and I remembered that," said Johnny. "Wait, wait," said Mrs. Johnson. "The next question was, 'Who is the National party leader?'"

Mary put 'I don't know,' and you put, 'Me neither.'"



### The Wheels of Life



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PO Box 12004 1 Olive Road Penrose. P 09 525 7022 E info@curreyfinancial.co.nz www.curreyfinancial.co.nz

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