**Medshield is committed to building a sustainable healthcare future**

Kevin Aron, Principal Officer at Medshield Medical Scheme

**JOHANNESBURG - Are you curious about what makes businesses stand out in our current environment? It's certainly not about the bottom line and the financials anymore. It's about how they impact the world – the environment, the societies in which they operate, and their governance structures. Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles have become indispensable in a world grappling with climate change, social inequalities, and corporate accountability. While sectors like mining, energy, and manufacturing have typically been under the ESG spotlight, healthcare is now stepping into focus.**

Integrating ESG principles is crucial for medical schemes to ensure the future sustainability of healthcare. Factors such as escalating costs, the rise of lifestyle-related diseases, and the environmental impact of medical waste make ESG adoption necessary. Medshield Medical Scheme aligns sustainability with healthcare excellence by developing an ESG roadmap featuring clear corporate sustainability goals. This effort sets the benchmark for responsible healthcare funding in South Africa, paving the way for a more resilient healthcare system.

**Learning from South African ESG leaders**

Medshield acknowledges the importance of gaining insights from industry leaders who have effectively integrated ESG principles into their business models. Locally, [Life Healthcare](https://www.lifehealthcare.co.za/about-us/sustainability) is actively driving sustainable healthcare by incorporating energy efficiency and water-saving measures across its hospital network. [Aspen Pharmacare](https://jumpshare.com/v/fG5lVDNBF0PLE6wfDatm?b=hQUx4XCyEcB6OdiohpQn), one of South Africa's largest pharmaceutical companies, has embedded ESG principles into its global operations – most notably with sustainable manufacturing practices and community health support initiatives.

Sanlam has demonstrated leadership in sustainable investment practices, governance transparency, and transformation targets in the insurance sector, aligning financial strength with social progress. Novartis South Africa also contributes to local ESG progress through public-private partnerships to expand access to healthcare and drive inclusive health equity.

By benchmarking against these homegrown leaders and learning from their practical examples, Medshield aims to refine and strengthen its ESG roadmap. Although still in its preliminary stages, Medshield is laying the foundation for meaningful impact.

1. **Environmental Impact: Pollution and Waste Management**

Environmental sustainability is a fundamental ESG pillar, and healthcare providers must tackle pollution and waste management. The healthcare sector produces substantial medical, pharmaceutical, and electronic waste, which can result in severe environmental consequences if not meticulously managed.

Life Healthcare has taken a proactive role in managing medical waste and improving energy usage within hospital environments. Aspen Pharmacare has also been recognised for its commitment to reducing environmental impact through improved production technologies and waste reduction systems. Inspired by these local initiatives, Medshield is exploring energy-efficient infrastructure and renewable energy solutions to reduce its environmental footprint and contribute to sustainable healthcare.

1. **Social Impact: Climate Change and Human Health**

Climate change poses an escalating threat to public health. Rising temperatures and pollution levels contribute to lifestyle ailments such as hypertension, diabetes, and respiratory conditions. Medshield recognises its responsibility to mitigate these health risks through preventive healthcare programmes, chronic disease management, and promoting wellness benefits to its members.

In parallel, Novartis South Africa continues to lead in raising awareness and improving access to treatment for chronic diseases, with a focus on underserved communities. Medshield similarly integrates ESG principles across its internal operations to ensure alignment with corporate sustainability goals and regulatory compliance while supporting climate resilience through health.

1. **Corporate Responsibility: Social Initiatives and Member Engagement**

ESG leaders in South Africa prioritise healthcare access and equity. Medshield is committed to extending its corporate responsibility beyond its members. The Scheme supports community health initiatives, wellness programmes, and financial literacy education. Additionally, Medshield embeds ESG principles into its corporate culture – ensuring staff engagement and promoting awareness about lifestyle changes that contribute to improved health outcomes.

Aspen Pharmacare, for instance, has significantly contributed to healthcare equity through community-based partnerships and access to essential medicines. Sanlam has also implemented financial literacy initiatives nationwide to drive socioeconomic upliftment. Medshield is actively learning from and contributing to this ecosystem of shared value creation.

1. **Governance: The Pillar of Corporate Sustainability**

Strong governance ensures transparency, accountability, and long-term sustainability. Medshield prides itself on having a robust governance structure and is adopting best practices to strengthen its corporate governance. The Scheme is exploring partnerships with ESG-focused healthcare networks for ongoing improvement and intends to integrate ESG reporting into its annual trustee and Annual General Meeting (AGM) reports to strengthen transparency and accountability.

Sanlam's comprehensive sustainability disclosures and Life Healthcare's transparent ESG frameworks offer useful templates for Medshield's ongoing governance enhancement. By drawing from these examples, Medshield aims to ensure that ESG isn't a side initiative but a core part of the Scheme's operation.

**Medshield is a responsible corporate citizen**

Medshield's ESG journey signifies its dedication to being a responsible corporate citizen. By embedding ESG principles into its business model, Medshield enhances its reputation and safeguards its operations against emerging global challenges.

As one of the pioneers among South African medical schemes in undertaking a structured ESG journey, Medshield is setting a noteworthy precedent. Its approach emphasises long-term resilience, sustainability, and member-centric healthcare solutions.

As Medshield refines its ESG initiatives, the greater healthcare sector benefits from a model prioritising people, the planet, and strong governance. ESG is not merely a trend – it is the future of responsible healthcare, and Medshield is at the forefront of this transformation in South Africa. We invite all members, brokers, and stakeholders to join us in shaping a more sustainable and inclusive healthcare future.

**FIN**

(879 words)

**EDITORS NOTES**

**FURTHER MEDIA INFORMATION AND INTERVIEW REQUESTS**

* Stone issues this release on behalf of the Medshield Medical Scheme.
* For media enquiries or interview requests, please contact Willem Eksteen, CEO of Stone or a media liaison member of the Stone team at media@stone.consulting / 011 447 0168
* Alternatively, contact Lilané Swanepoel at Medshield at 010 597 4982 / lilanes@medshield.co.za

**ABOUT KEVIN ARON, PRINCIPAL OFFICER OF MEDSHIELD MEDICAL SCHEME**

A qualified Chartered Accountant, Aron has a wealth of healthcare industry knowledge and is well-known in the industry. He started his career at South African Druggists, where he spent many years working in various financial and management roles within the Group, including stints at Mediscor and Medical Services Organisation, where he was Chief Operating Officer.

After completing his MBA, Aron joined Medscheme in 2001, where he had a long and successful career, culminating in his appointment as Chief Executive Officer in 2014. Before joining Medshield, Aron consulted for various institutions in the healthcare industry, focusing on value-based healthcare delivery systems.

**MORE INFORMATION ON THE 2025 MEDSHIELD BENEFIT OPTIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

Benefits and Contribution amendments are subject to CMS approval.

Please refer to the 2025 Product Page on the Medshield website at <https://medshield.co.za/>.

You can review the benefit adjustments, and value adds and download the 2025 benefit guides by visiting <https://medshield.co.za/2025-products/2025-benefit-options/> or by scanning the relevant QR code:

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| --- | --- |
| **Benefit package and descriptor** | **QR code to view more detail** |
| **PremiumPlus** provides mature families and professionals with unlimited hospital cover in a hospital of their choice, with In-Hospital Medical Practitioner consultations and visits paid at 200% Medshield Private Tariff, and the freedom to manage daily healthcare expenses through a comprehensive Personal Savings Account and extended Above Threshold Cover. c | A qr code with a white background  Description automatically generated |
| **MediBonus** provides mature families and professionals with unlimited hospital cover in a hospital of their choice, with In-Hospital Medical Practitioner consultations and visits paid at 200% Medshield Private Tariff, and the independence to manage daily healthcare expenses through a substantial Day-to-Day Limit. | A qr code on a white background  Description automatically generated |
| **MediSaver** is perfect for independent individuals and young professionals thinking about expanding their families. MediSaver offers unlimited hospital cover in the Compact Hospital Network, with the freedom to manage daily healthcare expenses through a generous Personal Savings Account. | A qr code on a white background  Description automatically generated |
| **MediPlus** provides middle to upper-income families with complete healthcare cover for major medical and daily healthcare needs. Unlimited hospital cover is provided through a choice of two hospital networks, Prime or the value-focused Compact Hospital Network. Daily healthcare expenses are covered through a generous Day-to-Day Limit. Benefits are identical in both categories, Prime and Compact, with care coordination and doctor referral mandated on MediPlus Compact.  | A qr code on a white background  Description automatically generated |
| **MediCore** is ideal for healthy individuals looking for comprehensive hospital cover, with daily healthcare expenses self-managed. This option offers unlimited hospital cover in the Compact Hospital Network, with In-Hospital Medical Practitioner consultations and visits paid at Medshield Private Tariff 200%. Day-to-day healthcare expenses are self-funded. | A qr code on a white background  Description automatically generated |
| **MediValue** is the ideal option for growing families. It offers affordable cover for major medical and daily healthcare needs. Unlimited hospital cover is provided through a choice of two hospital networks, Prime or the value-focused Compact Hospital Network. Daily healthcare expenses are covered through a sizeable Day-to-Day Limit. Benefits are identical on both options, MediValue Prime and MediValue Compact, with care coordination and doctor referral mandated on MediValue Compact. | A qr code with a white background  Description automatically generated |
| **MediPhila** is ideal for families seeking first-time access to affordable private medical cover. As a MediPhila member, you have full cover for Prescribed Minimum Benefit (PMB) treatment plus R1 million per family for non-PMB In-Hospital treatment in the MediPhila Hospital Network. Coupled with this is Day-to-Day cover for your essential daily healthcare needs. | A qr code on a white background  Description automatically generated |
| **MediCurve** If you are tech-savvy, young and healthy, then MediCurve is the ideal first-time option for you! MediCurve provides generous hospital cover in the MediCurve Hospital Network combined with unlimited virtual Family Practitioner consultations and essential optical and dental cover through network providers | A qr code on a white background  Description automatically generated |

**MORE ABOUT MEDSHIELD MEDICAL SCHEME**

* You never know when you or your family member/s may require medical care or treatment, and most importantly, whether you will have funds available to cover the costs. Medshield is a healthcare fund where all members contribute to the fund every month to cater for medical coverage should the need arise. Medshield is a healthcare fund where all members contribute towards the fund monthly to cater for medical cover should the need arise.
* Medshield has been in operation since 1968, making us one of the most experienced, knowledgeable, and reliable medical schemes in South Africa. Our extensive experience in the healthcare sector guides our understanding of our members' needs. Our excellent cover and benefits and the best quality systems and services have resulted in our exceptional size and strength.
* Each of our options offers affordably priced benefits. We continuously review and improve the range of benefits in each option to bring you what you need.
* We partner with our stakeholders to enable access to sustainable and **affordable quality healthcare** through innovative products and benefits.
* Our impeccable reputation of prompt payments to hospitals, doctors, pharmacies and other medical caregivers guarantees approval from service providers when you present your Medshield membership card.
* Our extensive partner networks place us in the perfect position to offer exceptionally competitive rates to our members.
* Medshield is well-represented throughout all nine provinces and provides seamless access to service providers in your area. Our geographical spread provides convenience if it becomes necessary for you to have a personal discussion with one of our experienced consultants. We also have a streamlined online claim submission system and immediate contact centre assistance, making it easier to manage your membership and claims from the convenience of your home or office.
* Another distinguishing factor is our extensive range of additional benefits and services. These benefits and services have been designed to give members additional support when needed, for instance, in an emergency or when suffering from a chronic or life-threatening condition.
* Compared with other medical schemes, our trustworthiness, impeccable history, and exceptional service guarantee that we come out tops!
* As the interface between the Scheme and our members, Medshield staff are the backbone of our customer service delivery. The successful delivery of service depends entirely on the calibre of our people.