



FURNITURE BARGAINING COUNCIL

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CIRCULAR 06/26

TO ALL EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES (Employers and Employees in All Areas)

TERMINATION OF FURNMED SICK BENEFIT SOCIETY WITH EFFECT FROM 31 MAY 2026

Please be advised that, due to a decline in membership, the Board of Trustees has unanimously resolved that the Furnmed Sick Benefit Society shall cease operations with effect from 31 May 2026. The Society will accordingly be wound up and liquidated in terms of Clause 9 of Chapter 2 of the Main Collective Agreement of the Council.

Kindly note that the following arrangements in this regard will be applicable:

- All member benefits will be **pro-rated up to 31 May 2026**;
- Contributions and the medical allowance for May 2026, as set out in clauses 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4 of Addendum 1 to the Main Collective Agreement, remain payable in full, as members will continue to have access to their benefits up to 31 May 2026; and
- CEPPWAWU has indicated that Affinity Health has been identified as a potential alternative preferred service provider for its members and further communication in this regard will follow from CEPPWAWU and/or the provider.

Effective from 1 June 2026, the required deduction and payment of the employee contribution, as advised by CEPPWAWU and/or the preferred provider, together with the employer's medical allowance, shall remain applicable to members of the closed Furnmed Sick Benefit Society **who were employed prior to the 1st full pay week in May 2020 (all areas)**, subject to the conditions set out hereunder:

- The medical allowance of R30.50 per week per employee remains payable by the employer to a health benefit fund elected by CEPPWAWU, in respect of its members of the current Furnmed Sick Benefit Society **who were employed prior to the 1st full pay week in May 2020**, subject to such members joining the elected health benefit fund by no later than 31 August 2026.
- Failing such membership by that date, the employer's obligation to pay the allowance in terms of the Main Collective Agreement shall cease.

NB: The remaining provisions of the Industry's Main Collective Agreement remain applicable.

Kindly ensure that all provisions of this Circular are complied with. Please contact the Council's Inspectorate Department should you require any additional information or clarity regarding this Circular.

Please do not contact any junior staff members of the Council for any additional information or clarity regarding this Circular.

A COPY OF THIS CIRCULAR MUST BE DISPLAYED ON YOUR ESTABLISHMENT'S NOTICE BOARD