



## Strengthening Medicare More bulk billing

**\$7.9 billion**  
for more bulk billing  
for all Australians

**18 million**  
extra GP services  
bulk billed each year  
by 2030

**\$859 million**  
in patient savings  
each year by 2030

**9 in 10**  
GP visits bulk billed  
by 2030

### Summary

The 2025–26 Budget includes the single largest investment in Medicare since its creation over 40 years ago to deliver an additional 18 million bulk billed GP visits each year by 2030.

Australians will save hundreds of dollars a year in out-of-pocket costs, with 9 in 10 GP visits to be bulk billed by 2030 thanks to a \$7.9 billion investment.

The investment will expand eligibility for bulk billing incentives to all Australians. A new Bulk Billing Practice Incentive Program will also provide additional funding to GPs and GP practices that bulk bill all their patients. Around 4,800 GP practices nationally will be financially better off if they bulk bill all visits, gaining more Medicare payments than they currently charge in patient fees.

The 2025–26 Budget builds on the investments in previous Budgets that have strengthened Medicare and increased bulk billing for 11 million children, pensioners and other Commonwealth concession cardholders, bringing total investments to strengthen Medicare to \$23.5 billion since the October 2022-23 Budget.

## Who benefits

Australian patients and families will save hundreds of dollars a year in out-of-pocket costs with millions more GP appointments to be bulk billed.

Bulk billing incentives – additional Medicare benefits paid to GPs when they bulk bill a patient – were tripled for the most commonly claimed GP consultations in November 2023 for pensioners, concession cardholders and children.

This increased bulk billing for 11 million Australians, with more than 9 in 10 GP visits bulk billed for those patients last year. It delivered an additional 6 million bulk billed GP services between November 2023 and December 2024. That's an average of 100,000 additional free visits each week.

Bulk billing has increased in every state and territory, and more GPs now say they are bulk billing more patients, more often.

From 1 November 2025, the incentive will be expanded to all Australians.

Practices that bulk bill all their patients will also receive additional support from 1 November, with a new Bulk Billing Practice Incentive Program. On top of the bulk billing incentive, fully bulk billing practices will receive an additional 12.5% payment on their Medicare rebates each quarter. This will support bulk billing practices to provide quality care: to grow their team, upgrade their facilities and expand their services.

Around 4,800 practices will be better off if they adopt full bulk billing. This is expected to triple the number of fully bulk billing practices, making it easier for Australians to be able to find a GP that bulk bills.

These measures will increase the combined payments a GP receives from Medicare for a bulk billed appointment. The Medicare payment for a standard GP consultation to a non-concessional adult at a bulk billing, city practice will increase from \$42.85 to \$69.56. This includes the Medicare benefit, bulk billing incentive, and the practice incentive payment.

The payment for the same consult at a bulk billing regional or rural practice will increase from \$42.85 to up to \$84.86, depending on location — almost double what it is now.

By 2030, these measures will deliver an additional 18 million bulk billed GP visits each year, saving patients \$859 million a year.

It is expected that 9 in 10 GP consultations will be bulk billed by 2030.



## Case study



Jordan and Amy live in regional Queensland with their 2 children, Josie and Angus. Josie is 4 and Angus is 5 and has just started school.

The children have seen their family GP a number of times this year for minor illnesses and vaccinations, and when Josie tripped on a toy and hit her head. The children are usually bulk billed, but Amy and Jordan usually have to pay out-of-pocket fees. Amy has needed treatment for a urinary tract infection and a small cut to her hand. Jordan usually has a yearly checkup around his birthday, but skipped it this year because of the cost.

From 1 November, the local GP practice will become fully bulk billing for all patients, saving the family \$436 a year.