



Strengthening Medicare More Urgent Care Clinics

\$657.9 million

total investment in
Medicare Urgent
Care Clinics

137 clinics

in total, across every
state and territory

4 in 5

Australians will live
within 20 minutes of
a Medicare Urgent
Care Clinic

2 million

visits expected
each year once
all clinics are up
and running

Summary

More Australians will be able to get free urgent care in their community, without waiting in a hospital emergency department, thanks to 50 additional Medicare Urgent Care Clinics. There will be new clinics in every state and territory.

Medicare Urgent Care Clinics have been a game changer in primary health care in Australia. They offer bulk billed care for urgent but non-life-threatening conditions, 7 days a week, for extended hours, with no appointment needed.

The 87 clinics already opened have delivered more than 1.3 million bulk billed presentations. One third of patients seen are under the age of 15. One third of visits are outside regular business hours.

Urgent Care Clinics give Australians more choice to access the urgent health care they need, when they need it, at no cost to them.



Who benefits

Around 2 million Australians are expected to visit an Urgent Care Clinic each year, with the network growing from 87 to 137 clinics (\$644.3 million).

The additional 50 clinics will benefit patients across every state and territory. Once the new clinics open during the 2025–26 financial year, 4 in 5 Australians will live within a 20-minute drive of an Urgent Care Clinic.

Families are expected to be the biggest beneficiaries, with a third of patients already seen at the clinics being children under the age of 15.

Additional funding will also support extended hours at the Batemans Bay clinic, expanded hours at the Launceston clinic, further support operations of the Alice Springs clinic and extended Medicare Benefits Schedule billing for state-funded urgent care services to enable them to provide urgent care with no out-of-pocket costs for Medicare eligible patients (\$13.6 million).

Urgent Care Clinics are open 7 days a week, over extended hours. No appointments or referrals are required – patients can simply

walk in and wait to be seen. They will be treated by highly trained health professionals and be bulk billed – meaning they don't have to pay anything.

The clinics provide culturally safe, equitable and accessible urgent care to all people, including vulnerable and young people.

They are designed for patients who have an injury or illness that can't wait for a regular GP appointment, but is not life-threatening. They can help treat things like minor infections, minor fractures and sprains, sports injuries, urinary tract infections, sexually transmitted infections, minor cuts, bites, rashes, burns and respiratory illness.

Urgent Care Clinics also take pressure of local hospital emergency departments, freeing up resources for people needing care for more urgent or life-threatening health issues.

The locations of the additional 50 clinics have been determined based on analysis of local hospital presentations, bulk billing data, and geographic spread. The exact sites for each Urgent Care Clinic will be determined through independent commissioning processes conducted by Primary Health Networks or state and territory governments.

You can find your nearest Medicare Urgent Care Clinic [here](#).

Case study



Amad, a carpenter from Melbourne, cut his arm as he was finishing up a late job at about 6.30 pm. He knew it needed to be checked out by a doctor but wasn't serious enough to go the hospital emergency department. His GP closed at 5 pm and he thought it was too serious to wait. So he looked up the nearest Medicare Urgent Care Clinic, which was only 10 minutes from his home.

Amad walked in, without an appointment, and was quickly seen by a GP who treated his arm. The visit was fully bulk billed, meaning Amad didn't have to pay anything. Amad was pleased he didn't have to wait for hours at his local emergency department and was home in time for dinner with his family.

New Medicare Urgent Care Clinic locations:

New South Wales

(14 clinics)

Bathurst
Bega
Burwood
Chatswood
Dee Why
Green Valley and surrounds
Maitland
Marrickville
Nowra
Rouse Hill
Shellharbour
Terrigal
Tweed Valley
Windsor

Victoria

(12 clinics)

Bayside
Clifton Hill
Coburg
Diamond Creek and surrounds
Lilydale
Pakenham
Somerville
Stonnington
Sunshine
Torquay
Warragul
Warrnambool

Queensland

(10 clinics)

Brisbane
Buderim
Burpengary
Cairns
Caloundra
Capalaba
Carindale
Gladstone
Greenslopes and surrounds
Mackay

Western Australia

(6 clinics)

Bateman
Ellenbrook
Geraldton
Mirrabooka
Mundaring
Yanchep

South Australia

(3 clinics)

East Adelaide
Victor Harbor
Whyalla

Tasmania

(3 clinics)

Burnie
Kingston
Sorell

Northern Territory

(1 clinic)

Darwin

Australian Capital Territory

(1 clinic)

Woden Valley