



Aged Care – COVID-19 pandemic response

The Australian Government is protecting the lives of older Australians in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic with more than \$1.6 billion invested in the aged care response to the virus.

The Australian Government investment includes:

Investment	Announced
<p>National Medical Stockpile</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$3.3 billion to supplement the National Medical Stockpile, including Purchase of Masks and Other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), pharmaceuticals, and medical supplies and equipment 	<p>8 March 2020 with subsequent additions</p> <p>https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/australian-government-secures-additional-54-million-face-masks-to-contain-coronavirus-outbreak</p> <p>* These commitments have been accounted for separately in the Fact Sheet titled <i>Supporting our Hospitals – National Medical Stockpile</i>.</p>
<p>Supporting Aged Care Preparedness - surge workforce and training –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$101.2 million for the COVID-19 preparedness measure 2020 	<p>11 March 2020</p> <p>https://www.pm.gov.au/media/24-billion-health-plan-fight-covid-19</p>
<p>COVID-19 Pathology Testing in Aged Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$145.9 million including ‘inreach’ pathology testing in aged care and bulk billed Medicare testing for asymptomatic aged care workers 	<p>11 March 2020 with subsequent additions</p> <p>https://www.pm.gov.au/media/24-billion-health-plan-fight-covid-19</p> <p>* These commitments have been accounted for separately in the Fact Sheet titled <i>Aged Care -COVID-19 Pandemic Response – pathology testing in aged care</i>.</p>

Investment	Announced
<p>Supporting our Hospitals – COVID-19 Pandemic Response</p> <p>\$3.1 billion to cover 50 per cent of the additional costs incurred by state and territory health services as a result of the diagnosis and treatment of patients with COVID-19, those suspected of having the virus or activities to prevent the spread of it. This support is uncapped and demand driven.</p>	<p>13 March 2020 with subsequent additions</p> <p>https://www.pm.gov.au/media/press-conference-australian-parliament-house-act-7</p> <p>* These commitments have been accounted for separately in the Fact Sheet titled <i>Supporting our Hospitals – COVID-19 Pandemic Response</i>.</p>
<p>Aged Care Continuity of Workforce - Workforce Retention Payments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$234.9 million for direct care staff retention in residential and home care • \$78.3 million for a temporary increase to residential care subsidy • \$28.4 million for an increase to the viability supplement and homeless supplement • \$22.1 million to support home care • \$70 million for temporary support through the Commonwealth Home Support Programme • \$12.3 million to boost My Aged Care services 	<p>20 March 2020</p> <p>https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/measure-to-support-senior-australians-and-those-who-care-for-them</p>
<p>COVID-19 support through Commonwealth Home Support Programme – includes other CHSP</p> <p>COVID-19 supports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$59.3 million for meal delivery services • \$10 million for the Community Visitors Scheme 	<p>31 March 2020</p> <p>https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/meals-on-wheels-programs-reinforced-to-help-senior-australians-at-home</p>

Investment	Announced
<p>Private Hospital Viability Guarantee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1.7 billion to ensure the viability of private hospitals in return for maintenance and capacity during the COVID-19 response. These facilities have also supported the needs of aged care patients, long-stay public hospital National Disability Insurance Scheme participants and general needs patients 	<p>31 March 2020</p> <p>https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/australian-government-partnership-with-private-health-sector-secures-30000-hospital-beds-and-105000-nurses-and-staff-to-help-fight-covid-19-pandemic</p> <p>* These commitments have been accounted for separately in the Fact Sheet titled <i>Supporting our Hospitals – COVID-19 Pandemic Response</i>.</p>
<p>Support Payments to residential aged care providers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$205.3 million for residential aged care providers for costs associated with COVID-19 • \$55.8 million for the extension to the Business Improvement Fund for another year 	<p>1 May 2020</p> <p>https://www.pm.gov.au/media/new-covid-19-payment-keep-senior-australians-residential-aged-care-safe</p>
<p>Scale up aged care support programs in Victoria and across Australia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$81.0 million for additional surge workforce and increased training for aged care workers • \$8.4 million for supplementary payments to include quarantine costs and interstate staff • \$1.5 million to ensure appropriate and regular communication from Health Direct to the families and loved ones of Aged Care Residents impacted by COVID-19 • \$12.5 million to provide increased availability of grief and trauma support services to assist aged care residents and their families who have experienced a COVID-19 outbreak 	<p>21 August 2020</p> <p>https://www.pm.gov.au/media/reinforcement-australias-aged-care-sector</p>

Investment	Announced
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$50.6 million additional funding for the Workforce Retention Bonus, to account for additional demand • \$9.1 million for the Operation of the Victorian Aged Care Response Centre following the onset of the second wave in that state • \$9.0 million to ensure quality care is maintained by supporting the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission to continue its critical work supporting aged care providers across the country to prepare for and respond to COVID-19 outbreaks 	
<p>Additional Short-Term Support for Older Australians on Leave from Residential Aged Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$71.4 million for the Community Home Support Programme to expand support for older Australians who temporarily relocate from residential aged care facilities to the community to live with their families due to concerns about COVID-19 <p>Support Payments to residential aged care providers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$245 million in additional COVID-19 Support Payments <p>Support for Aged Care Workers in COVID-19 (SACWIC) Grant to additional</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$92.4 million to deliver the Support Aged Care Workers in COVID-19 Grant <p>Aged Care Continuity of Workforce - Workforce Retention Payments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$154.5 million for a third Workforce Retention Payment based on employment at 30 November 2020 	<p>31 August 2020</p> <p>https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/additional-funding-to-reinforce-australias-aged-care-sector</p>

Investment	Announced
Supporting Indigenous Elders living in urban areas <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$10 million to provide support for Indigenous Elders living in urban areas	6 October 2020