Australian Government

Department of Health

Guaranteeing Medicare and Access to Medicines

COVID-19 Strengthening primary care – \$4.3 billion investment

- Building on the 32.8 million telehealth services provided to date (30 Sept 2020), continuing access to Medicare-subsidised telehealth for general practitioner, nursing, midwifery, allied health, allied mental health services, specialist services and Medicare-subsidised pathology.
- Medicare-subsidised pathology and testing at the point of care will continue in 86 rural and remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
- Funding for up to 150 GP-led respiratory clinics nationally.

Ensuring access to medicines during the pandemic

- Supporting access to medicines through fast tracking e-prescribing (\$5m) and home delivery of medicines to protect vulnerable Australians (\$25m).
- Continued dispensing of medicines emergency measure.

Guaranteeing Medicare – \$28.8 billion investment

\$6b increase in Medicare funding over the next four years.

Improving Access to Medicines – \$10.2 billion investment

- PBS New Medicines Funding Guarantee.
- Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement (\$18.3b).
- Listing of Evolocumab for hypercholesterolaemia (\$179.2m) and Lynparza® (olaparib) for ovarian, fallopian tube or primary peritoneal cancers (\$57.4m).
- New payment arrangements for high cost medicines.
- New strategic agreements to be negotiated with Medicines Australia and GBMA.
- Funding vaccines under the National Immunisation Program (\$49m), potentially fatal meningococcal and pneumococcal diseases.
- Modernising business with the TGA (\$12m), improved regulation for medicinal cannabis (\$1.7m), introduction of a unique device identification system for implanted medical devices (\$7.7m) and development of a medicines unique identification framework.

Stronger Rural Health Strategy - \$550 million investment

- Rural, Regional and Remote Clinical Trial Enabling Infrastructure Program (\$125m).
- Rural Health Multidisciplinary training infrastructure (\$50.3m).
- New models of primary care to address rural workforce shortages (\$3.3m).

Prioritising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health - \$4 billion over four years

- ▶ \$975.5m in 2020–21.
- \$546.9m in Indigenous Australians Health Programme (IAHP) funding to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled health clinics. A further \$33m is being provided through the IAHP to expand Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care services.

Supporting our hospitals

Ensuring hospital capacity through COVID-19 – \$4.8 billion investment

Ensuring hospital capacity through the National Partnership on COVID-19 Response, which includes the State Health and Hospital 50/50 Sharing Agreement (\$3.1b) and harnessing the private hospital viability guarantee (\$1.7b).

National Hospital Funding Agreement – \$33.6 billion increase over 5 years

- Record \$133.6b funding for the next five years across all states and territories through the National Health Reform Agreement, including a \$33.6b increase in funding.
- Up from \$13.3b in 2012–13, to \$23.6b in 2020–21 to \$28.2b in 2023–24.
- Private Health Insurance reforms, including increasing the age of dependants, improving transparency of out of pocket costs website and consultation for hospital in the home initiatives, including for mental health and rehabilitation.

COVID National Medical Stockpile – \$3.3 billion investment

Additional funding to ensure the National Medical Stockpile continues to provide access to medicines, PPE and medical supplies and equipment (\$3.3b) and increasing onshore mask manufacturing capability (\$9.2m).

Budget at a Glance-Key Initiatives

2020–21 Budget

Long Term National Health Plan

\$115.5 billion in 2020-21 for health, aged care and sport. \$32 billion additional funding for health, aged care and sport over 4 years from 2020-21 to 2023-24.

- \$6b additional for Medicare. o \$2.4b total investment in telehealth.
- \$1.9b for life-saving medicines over four years. PBS New Medicines Funding Guarantee.
- \$33.6b additional for hospitals.
 - \$133.6b funding for five-year National Hospital Reform Agreement, an increase of \$33.6b.
 - New Private Health Insurance reforms to support hospital in the home and lower premiums for young Australians.
- ▶ \$5.7b for Mental Health.
 - Doubling the Better Access psychological services from 10 to 20.
- ▶ \$6.6b for life-saving medical research.
 - \$20b MRFF reached maturity in July 2020.
 - \$424m in new MRFF grants and new program openings.
- \$8b additional for aged care.
 - 23,000 additional home care packages.
- \$8.4b for preventive health and sport over four years.
 - Lifetime support for Australia's Thalidomide Survivors.

Prioritising Mental Health, Preventive Health and Sport

COVID-19 Supporting mental health – \$165.9 million investment

- Support to implement the National Mental Health Pandemic Response Plan (\$48.1m).
- Support for frontline health workers, older Australians, young people, new parents and Indigenous Australians (\$45.6m).
- Additional mental health support for Victorians, including \$26.9m for 15 new HeadtoHelp clinics.

A commitment to mental health – \$319.8 million investment

- Additional Medicare-subsidised psychology sessions doubling Better Access sessions from 10 to 20 sessions nationally (\$100.8m).
- Supporting young Australians with funding for Lifeline and Kids HelpLine (\$2m).
- Funding to support Australia's youth through headspace (\$26.1m).
- Expansion of Standby Support After Suicide program for bereaved families (\$10m), and the Way Back Support Service following a suicide attempt (\$7m).
- (\$50.3m) to support people affected by bushfires through funding for trauma response co-ordinators, trauma care training and expansion of mental health services and community grants for bushfire-affected areas, and telehealth services
- Funding for immediate frontline emergency counselling and hotlines (\$10.5m).

Preventive health – \$184.1 million investment

- Support for Australia's Thalidomide Survivors (\$44.9m).
- ► Implementation of the Roadmap for Hearing Health (\$21.2m).
- ► Streamlining Cancer Australia's Tumour Specific Funding Streams (\$11.5m).
- Investment in antimicrobial usage and resistance (AMR) surveillance (\$22.5m).
- Victorian Melanoma and Clinical Trials Centre (\$50m).

Sport and physical activity - \$46.7 million investment

- Continuation of Sporting Schools (\$39.6m).
- Supporting women in sport with funding for the 2023 Women's World Cup ► (\$2.4m).

Ageing and Aged Care

Supporting home care - \$1.6 billion investment

COVID-19 Aged Care Response Plan – \$1.6 billion investment

- includina:
 - Surge workforce support:

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- transferred.
- Increased testing services:
- More than 165,000 tests to aged care residents and staff across Australia. More than 38.5 million personal protective equipment items provided for aged care and mandating Infection control officers, enhanced nurse training.

- Aged Care (\$71.4m).

- Dementia training and support (\$11.3m).
- Implementation of aged care workforce strategy (\$10.3m).

- ►
- ► at home (\$4.6m).

(\$95.2m).

4 years

Life-saving and job-creating medical research

Budget 2020–21

Helping older Australians live at home for longer through providing an additional 23,000 home care places (\$1.6b). Increase of 73,105 places since May 2018.

Introduction in March and subsequent expansion of the COVID-19 Aged Care Response Plan (\$1.6b total since March, including \$746.3b this Budget),

- Funding for the Aged Care Workforce Retention Payment (\$440m).
- Investment to support aged care surge workforce (\$204.6m).
 - Grants to support aged care workers at single sites (SACWIC) (\$92.4m).
- o Public and private hospital COVID-19 partnerships more than 500 patients

- Establishment of the Victorian Aged Care Response Centre (\$9.1m).
- Supporting older Australians living at home through CHSP (\$70m).
- Short-Term Support for Older Australians on Leave from Residential
- Supporting aged care nurses to enhance their skills and training (\$10.8m).
- Safety and quality and foundations for reform \$408.5 million investment
 - Keeping young people out of residential aged care (\$10.6m).
 - New funding model to support better care (\$91.6m).
 - Support for the Royal Commission (\$4.1m).
 - Support through the Business Improvement Fund (\$35.6m).
 - Commonwealth Disability Support for Older Australians (\$125.3m).
 - Investments in the Serious Incident Response Scheme (\$29.8m).
 - Expanding the Single In Home Support Program to support older people

\$20 billion Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) endowment fully established in July 2020

Research into COVID-19 treatments and vaccines – \$2.3 billion investment

Securing COVID-19 vaccine access for all Australians (\$1.7b).

National Vaccine and Treatment Strategy to guide strategic investments to access and manufacture COVID-19 vaccines.

Initial investment to access COVID vaccine doses through the Gavi COVAX Facility (\$123.2m).

Funding for life-saving research into treatments for COVID-19 via the MRFF

Ground-breaking medical research and clinical trials – \$6.6 billion over

\$424.3m in MRFF grants and new program openings.

\$6.6b funding for MRFF, NHMRC and BTF over the next four years.

Patients (\$1.3b) – clinical trials for innovative treatments, delivering more advanced health care and medical technology.

Researchers (\$0.8b) – Frontier Health and Medical Research.

Missions (\$1.4b) – Genomics Health Futures Missions (\$500m); Stem Cell Mission; Cardiovascular Mission; and Traumatic Brain Injury Mission (\$49m). Translations (\$1.5b) – Rapid Applied Research Translation Centres (\$218m); National Critical Infrastructure (\$605m); and Research Data Infrastructure (\$80m).