



## Response to the COVID-19 pandemic

The Australian Government has made every effort to minimise the spread of the coronavirus and its impact on Australians. Australia stands as a model for many nations on how to navigate the COVID-19 crisis.

The Australian Government’s \$16.5 billion emergency health response includes:

GUARANTEEING MEDICARE AND ACCESS TO MEDICINES	
Measure	Funding (\$)
Temporary Access to Medicare-subsidised Telehealth - GP, nursing, midwifery, allied health and mental health services and for essential specialist services	2.4 billion
Interim System Build to Support Ongoing Telehealth	18.6 million
Establishment and extension of 150 GP-led Respiratory Clinics	377.5 million
Continued access to GPs during the pandemic	54.8 million
Microbiology and pathology testing and industry support	1.0 billion
COVID-19 Pathology Testing in Aged Care	145.9 million
Access to medicines (home delivery) and e-prescribing	30.0 million
Workforce infection control training and surge capacity	30.0 million
Funding for early retrieval and evacuation for people with potential COVID-19	30.0 million
Support for COVID-19 triage helplines and communications	143.6 million
Support for planning and preparedness activities in remote communities, including increased screening protocols to reduce travel	5.0 million
Medical Indemnity coverage for returning medical practitioners and midwives	3.7 million

Response to Outbreaks: Australian Medical Assistance Teams (AUSMAT) deployment	7.8 million
Support for the National Incident Room capability in response to the pandemic	49.2 million
Modelling and surveillance to support the response to COVID-19	4.5 million
Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency - increased registration capacity	6.3 million
Response to Outbreaks: staffed mobile respiratory clinics	15.0 million
COVID-19 Remote Point Of Care Testing (POCT) Program in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities	9.8 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4.3 billion</b>
<b>SUPPORTING OUR HOSPITALS</b>	
<b>Measure</b>	<b>Funding (\$)</b>
Harnessing private hospital capacity	1.7 billion
National Partnership Agreement on a joint COVID-19 public health response	3.1 billion
National Medical Stockpile - purchase of masks and other personal protective equipment (PPE) and pharmaceuticals	3.3 billion
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8.0 billion</b>
<b>AGEING AND AGED CARE</b>	
<b>Measure</b>	<b>Funding (\$)</b>
Supporting aged care preparedness - surge workforce	204.6 million
Support payments to home care and residential aged care providers	574.5 million
Aged Care continuity of workforce - Workforce Retention Payments	440.0 million

COVID-19 support through Commonwealth Home Support Programme	200.7 million
Support for Aged Care Workers in COVID-19 grant to additional regions	92.4 million
Business Improvement Fund to provide emergency COVID-19 support and targeted prudential intervention	55.8 million
Operation of the Victorian Aged Care Response Centre	9.1 million
Supporting quality and safety monitoring of aged care services	9.0 million
Enhancing nursing skills and leadership capability in aged care measure	10.8 million
Emergency funding for the My Aged Care Contact Centre for COVID-19	12.3 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1.6 billion</b>
<b>MEDICAL RESEARCH AND VACCINES</b>	
<b>Measure</b>	<b>Funding (\$)</b>
Securing early access to COVID-19 vaccines through agreements between the Australian Government and the University of Oxford/AstraZeneca and the University of Queensland/CSL	1.7 billion
Initial investment to the Gavi COVAX Facility (up to 25.5 million doses)	123.2 million
Purchase of peripherals to enable COVID-19 vaccine administration	24.7 million
Research investment (including \$95 million from the MRFF) for diagnostics, vaccine development, antiviral development, clinical trials, digital health research infrastructure and research into the human immune response to COVID-19 infection	362 million
Investment to secure COVID-19 vaccines for developing countries through the Advance Market Commitment component of Gavi Facility	80 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2.3 billion</b>

<b>PRIORITISING MENTAL HEALTH AND PREVENTIVE HEALTH</b>	
<b>Measure</b>	<b>Funding (\$)</b>
Supporting Better Access - additional psychological therapies	100.8 million
National Mental Health Pandemic Response Plan	48.1 million
Early intervention support - Beyond Blue, Lifeline and Kids Helpline	24.0 million
Supporting transition of psychosocial support clients to the NDIS	28.4 million
Targeted support for vulnerable groups and enhanced access to clinical care, including aged care	20.2 million
PHNs to establish 15 mental health clinics at selected GP clinics and headspace centres in Victoria	31.9 million
Additional mental health support and crisis services in Victoria to respond to COVID-19	12.0 million
COVID-19 mental health response - awareness and prevention	1.4 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$266.8 million</b>
<b>TOTAL COVID-19 INVESTMENT</b>	<b>\$16.5 billion</b>