



Strengthening Primary Care – implementation of MBS Review

The Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) will be reviewed on a continuous basis to ensure it continues to fund high value care, remains flexible and modern, and provides value for money for patients and taxpayers. Meanwhile, patients continue to benefit from changes to the MBS recommended by the clinician-led MBS Review Taskforce.

The MBS Taskforce has completed its review of the more than 5,700 items on the MBS to ensure quality, safe and modern care for all Australians. More than 1,600 MBS items have been updated, and obsolete items removed. In this Budget, the Government is also establishing a continuous review to ensure the MBS continues to be supported, improved and made secure for Australia's future.

Why is this important?

The MBS supported more than 424 million health services in 2018–19. The Review has already delivered improvements in patient care. Embedding a permanent review function will create a more clinically safe, appropriate and fiscally sustainable MBS.

Also, as clinical practice continues to change and evolve, it is necessary to build a system of review that provides continual program assurance for the MBS, including for fundamental changes to the delivery of services.

Who will benefit?

Patients will benefit from an MBS that delivers high value care, aligns with contemporary clinical evidence, represents best value for money and improves health outcomes.

How much will this cost?

The continued implementation of review reforms and building continuous review mechanisms will cost \$17.3 million over two years from 2020–21 to 2021–22.