



Supporting our Hospitals – COVID-19 pandemic response

The Australian Government is continuing the historic National Partnership Agreement on COVID-19 Response with all states and territories to support the management of COVID-19. Under the National Partnership, the Australian Government pays for 50 per cent of costs incurred by hospitals and state public health authorities to assess, diagnose, treat and contain COVID-19.

In addition, the Australian Government meets 100 per cent of the cost of ensuring that private hospital beds and the private hospital workforce are available to supplement public hospitals during COVID-19 outbreaks.

Since March, the Australian Government has invested \$4.8 billion in the National Partnership Agreement – \$3.1 billion to states and territories, and \$1.7 billion for the private hospital viability guarantee, an unprecedented integration of the public and private hospital systems. This has provided support for elective surgeries, IT systems, cleaning, personal protective equipment (PPE) and ventilators.

Why is this important?

The full resources of our world-class health system – a blend of public and private systems – are needed to focus on treating COVID-19 patients. While Victoria is managing a second wave of COVID-19 cases, it is critical that national support continues to ensure states and territories can proactively manage the pandemic. Support for states and territories is critical to mitigate the risk of further outbreaks as much as possible.

Guaranteeing the viability of private hospitals ensures states and territories have access to private hospital beds, staffing and resources (such as PPE stocks and ventilators) to support their ongoing response to the pandemic. This has proven critical during the recent Victorian outbreak, particularly for supporting aged care facilities, with more than 47 aged care residents transferred to public hospitals and more than 500 aged care residents transferred to private hospitals.

These measures are informed by, and support, the Government's Coronavirus National Health Plan, to ensure Australians have the support they need throughout this pandemic and that we remain prepared across the country.

Who will benefit?

Building the capacity of the health system will ensure people with COVID-19 are effectively assessed, diagnosed and treated. People, particularly those most at risk, can continue to access essential health care in a way that reduces their potential exposure to infection. The

viability of private hospitals guarantees our capacity to respond to COVID-19, meaning that more beds, doctors and nurses are available in the event of an outbreak.

How much will this cost?

This will cost \$4.8 billion over two years commencing 2019–20.

Funding paid by the Australian Government through the National Partnership as of 30 September 2020, by intended purpose and \$ million:

