



Overview – Response to the COVID-19 pandemic

The Australian Government has made every effort to minimise the spread of the COVID-19 virus 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 \$25 billion emergency health response includes:

GUARANTEEING MEDICARE AND ACCESS TO MEDICINES	
Measure	Total Funding since March 2020 (\$)
Temporary Access to Medicare-subsidised Telehealth – GP, nursing, midwifery, allied health and mental health services and for essential specialist services	3.6 billion
Establishment and extension of up to 150 GP-led Respiratory Clinics	446.9 million
Continued access to GPs during the pandemic	54.8 million
Microbiology and pathology testing and industry support	1.5 billion
COVID-19 Pathology Testing in Aged Care	209.5 million
Access to medicines (home delivery) and e-prescribing	41.5 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	143.7 million
Support for planning and preparedness activities in remote communities, including increased screening protocols to reduce travel	23.0 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	112.9 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	10.7 million
Total	6.2 billion

SUPPORTING OUR HOSPITALS	
Measure	Total Funding since March 2020 (\$)
Harnessing private hospital capacity	1.2 billion
National Partnership Agreement on a joint COVID-19 public health response	4.1 billion
National Medical Stockpile – purchase of masks and other personal protective equipment (PPE) and pharmaceuticals	3.3 billion
COVID-19 Quarantine facilities	588.7 million
Total	9.2 billion

AGEING AND AGED CARE	
Measure	Total Funding since March 2020 (\$)
Supporting aged care preparedness – surge workforce	204.6 million
Support payments to home care and residential aged care providers	855.9 million
Aged Care continuity of workforce – Workforce Retention Payments	442.2 million
COVID-19 support through Commonwealth Home Support Programme	200.9 million
Support for Aged Care Workers in COVID-19 grant to additional regions	93.0 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	17.3 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
Introduction of the Serious Incident Response Scheme (SIRS) for residential aged care	40.9 million
Increasing access to allied health and additional allied health group services for Residents of Aged Care Facilities	27.9 million
Temporary reduction to the Australian Government subsidy paid to residential aged care providers when a resident is on extended hospital leave	6.3 million
Additional Support for Aged Care Under the National Partnership on COVID-19 Response	57.8 million
Expanding Mental Health Support for Aged Care Residents During the COVID-19 Pandemic	35.5 million
Total	2.1 billion

MEDICAL RESEARCH AND VACCINES	
Measure	Total Funding since March 2020 (\$)
Securing access and distribution of vaccines for people living in Australia	5.4 billion
Investment to support COVID-19 vaccine access and health security for developing countries, Pacific and Southeast Asia, including funding to the Gavi Facility (the Vaccine Alliance)	1.0 billion
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	373.4 million
Vaccine workforce support, Training and Communications	333.9 million
Total	7.2 billion

PRIORITISING MENTAL HEALTH AND PREVENTIVE HEALTH	
Measure	Total Funding since March 2020 (\$)
Supporting Better Access – additional psychological therapies	100.8 million
National Mental Health Pandemic Response Plan	48.1 million
Early intervention mental health support and crisis services - Beyond Blue, Lifeline and Kids Helpline	43.1 million
Targeted support for vulnerable groups and enhanced access to clinical care, including aged care and psychosocial support clients to the NDIS	48.5 million
PHNs to establish 15 mental health clinics at selected GP clinics and headspace centres in Victoria	31.9 million
Funding to expand the individual placement and support program to assist vulnerable young people with mental illness to participate in the workforce	45.7 million
COVID-19 mental health response – awareness and prevention	1.4 million
Total	320 million

TOTAL COVID-19 INVESTMENT	25.0 billion
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