



Preventive health – Foundations for the National Preventive Health Strategy

The Australian Government is investing \$1.9 million toward improving the preventive health system to support Australians to lead healthy lives.

- \$1.9 million to fund the creation of a platform to support a stronger and more effective preventive health system in Australia. The platform will support the coming *National Preventive Health Strategy 2021–2030* and increase focus on preventive health in order to decrease chronic conditions over time for Australians.

This work will include:

- establishing an evidence-based Prioritisation Framework to be used by an independent governance committee
- analysing the current public health workforce profile to establish the growth levels, training opportunities, development pathways and areas of unmet demand
- developing a national consumer strategy to strengthen partnerships between health policy makers and the community
- developing a national health literacy strategy to improve the health literacy environment in Australia and individuals' self-care capabilities, and
- developing an implementation plan to support and guide the strategy.

This initiative will help to refocus health funding towards prevention, to ensure that Australians are not just living longer, but living well for longer.

Why is this important?

Preventive health is a key area of reform for the Australian Government. It forms the third pillar in Australia's Long Term National Health Plan.

The 2019 Australian Burden of Disease Study demonstrated that 38% of the burden of disease was preventable by reducing modifiable risk factors such as tobacco use, being overweight or obese, poor diet, high blood pressure, and high blood glucose.

Taking action on preventive health, particularly to address chronic disease, delivers greater value for money, compared to the treatment of acute chronic illness.

Who will benefit?

This measure will benefit all Australians through the creation of a strong and sustainable preventive health system that will reduce the risk factors for disease, promote wellbeing and decrease pressures on the health system.

How much will this cost?

The Australian Government is investing \$1.9 million over 2 years, from 2021–22.