



Preventive Health - Women's health and endometriosis

The Australian Government will invest \$21.6 million in supporting women and girls, including those suffering from or at risk of endometriosis, to improve their health through continued funding towards critical women's health activities, in line with the *National Women's Health Strategy 2020–2030* (the Strategy) and the *National Action Plan for Endometriosis*.

The Australian Government will provide support for national women's health initiatives to address core issues impacting the lives and livelihoods of women, including:

- \$5 million to support the continuation of the Pelvic Pain Foundation of Australia's Periods, Pain and Endometriosis Program (PPEP-Talk) in 2 existing sites (South Australia and Western Australia) and to scale up to nation-wide delivery, and
- \$16.6 million for women's health initiatives, including funding to Jean Hailes for Women's Health to continue the National Women's Health Initiative, including:
 - the successful Women's Health Week, now in its 8th year, to provide avenues online and in person to positively influence women's wellbeing nation-wide
 - the annual National Women's Health Survey so we know what women think about their health and what their priority needs are
 - providing the National Digital Gateway for Women's Health to ensure that women and health professionals have ready access to up-to-date and evidence-based women's health resources, and
 - health professionals sector education and engagement to keep women's health education tools at the forefront of healthcare.

Why is this important?

The Australian Government is committed to implementing the 5 priority areas of the *National Women's Health Strategy 2020–2030* and improving long-term health outcomes for Australian women and girls.

One in 2 Australian females have a chronic disease and endometriosis affects at least one in 9 girls and women, leading to severe chronic pain and, in some cases, infertility. An estimated

700,000 Australian women and girls suffer from endometriosis, and delays in diagnosis suggest the number could be far higher.

The continuing support under the *National Action Plan for Endometriosis* will improve health outcomes for women and girls, which along with improved wellbeing, will also lead to reduced school and workplace absenteeism.

Who will benefit?

These measures will support improved health outcomes for women and girls, who make up more than half of the Australian population. Priority populations identified in the Strategy include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and girls, culturally and linguistically diverse groups, and rural and remote populations.

How much will this cost?

The Australian Government is investing \$21.6 million over 4 years from 2021–22.