



Vaccination Program Delivery Package – COVID-19 vaccine implementation and rollout

The Australian Government is committed to providing all Australians with access to a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine and has committed \$1.9 billion to the Australian COVID-19 vaccine program. Total investment to date including the new investment is \$7.2 billion.

Central to the Government's vaccine program is the distribution and availability of free COVID-19 vaccines to everyone living in Australia who choose to be vaccinated, through a range of health provider funding mechanisms.

2021–22 Budget measures include:

- \$510.8 million for a new COVID-19 Vaccines Schedule for states and territory health systems as part of the National Partnership on COVID-19 Response. This would see the Commonwealth providing a 50% contribution to the agreed price for each vaccination dose delivered by the states and territories
- \$253.1 million for a specific, temporary COVID-19 vaccination Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) item and Practice Incentive Program (PIP) payment to support the vaccination of millions of Australians through more than 6,200 accredited GPs
- \$35.8 million for a temporary community pharmacy program, which will leverage the national network of world class community pharmacies, to administer both vaccine doses to patients throughout Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the national rollout, and
- \$155.9 million for contractual arrangements to provide Commonwealth vaccine centres (formerly GP-led Respiratory Clinics) with direct funding for the administration of COVID-19 vaccines, which will be equivalent to the relevant MBS and PIP payments for GPs.

The Australian Government will also enable the development and rollout of COVID-19 vaccine communications, and support data and digital capabilities. This will ensure a 'no wrong door' approach, giving consumers as to when and where they access their vaccine when they become eligible.

It also includes funding for data solutions needed by government to administer the program and manage its performance, including:

- non-digital based phone support through Healthdirect, extending the Adverse Medicines Events line and sharing vital consumer data with the Therapeutic Goods Administration
- the National COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Checker providing Australians with an easy way to check their eligibility for vaccination, connect with vaccine clinics, register their interest and book online
- enhancing the Australian Immunisation Register and My Health Record, and
- essential tracking and visibility of the vaccine distribution network through the Vaccine Data Solution.

Funding will increase the capacity of the surge workforce to provide high throughput and in-reach vaccination services targeting priority populations, including aged care and disability care and hard-to-reach communities, whether by vulnerability or location.

The Australian Government is also providing \$1.7 million to the national COVID-19 vaccination training program to ensure the health workforce is appropriately and consistently skilled, given the specialised requirements for administering these vaccines.

Additional funding of \$233.8 million is also being provided to ensure the safe distribution of vaccine doses around Australia, including cold chain storage and logistics and the supply of necessary consumables.

Why is this important?

Making safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines available to all Australians is a key priority of the Australian Government.

New funding measures will support the state and territory governments, GPs, community pharmacies and Commonwealth vaccine centres to deliver the vaccine to Australians as the rollout continues.

Who will benefit?

The Australian Government is committed to ensuring that safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines are available to the entire Australian population, including people with particular vulnerabilities, those in remote communities and those currently residing in Australia on a range of visas.

The COVID-19 vaccination and the services to administer it will be free to everyone living in Australia who choose to be vaccinated.

How much will this cost?

The Australian Government will invest \$1.9 billion over 5 years, from 2020–21.