# Department of Health

Entity Resources and Planned Performance

# Department of Health

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Department of Health

## Section 1: Entity Overview and Resources

### **Strategic Direction Statement**

The Australian Government’s Long Term National Health Plan continues to provide Australians with timely and affordable access to high quality health care, aiming to deliver the world’s best health care system.

The 2022–23 Budget will deliver $132 billion in 2022–23 and $537 billion overall investment over 4 years in the health system.

This Budget will further strengthen the 4 pillars of the Plan: guaranteeing Medicare and improving access to life saving medicines; supporting our hospitals; prioritising preventive health, mental health and sport; and investing in breakthrough medical research.

This will provide Australians with improved access to healthcare services to help them lead happier and healthier lives, and deliver better health outcomes, while continuing successful ongoing protection against COVID-19.

To date, the Government has invested $1.1 billion in primary care reforms in line with the Primary Health Care 10 Year Plan. The 2022–23 Budget invests an additional $632.8 million, including $296.5 million for the related measures within the 10 Year Stronger Rural Health Strategy, bringing the total investment in primary care to $1.7 billion.

A key component of the Government’s 10 Year Stronger Rural Health Strategy invests $66 million into improving access to critical and life saving diagnostic imaging in regional, rural and remote areas by deregulating access to Medicare funded magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) services.

Since March 2020, the Government has invested more than $45.0 billion as part of the emergency health response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, and will invest $4.2 billion through the 2022–23 Budget to ensure the COVID-19 response and vaccine roll-out are effectively maintained, and will deliver a number of measures for winter preparedness to provide protection to all Australians.

The Government is building on its success of delivering the Long Term National Health Plan through investment in the 2022–23 Budget of:

* $537 billion over the next 4 years, up $34 billion from the 2021–22 Budget, including an increase of $7.3 billion in Medicare funding, $9.8 billion in hospital funding and $10.1 billion in Aged Care funding.
* $45.5 billion over 4 years to make medicines available and affordable through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), including an additional $2.4 billion in this Budget to list vital new medicines on the PBS.
* $133.5 million over 4 years to improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians’ health outcomes.
* $149.8 billion over 5 years from 2021–22 to continue record level investment in public hospitals, including funding under the 2020–25 National Health Reform Agreement.
* $632.8 million over 4 years to release, and drive objectives of, the Primary Health Care 10 Year Plan, and ensure telehealth remains a permanent part of Australia’s health system, including $296.5 million over 4 years to continue delivering improvements in regional, rural and remote health as part of the 10 Year Stronger Rural Health Strategy.
* $6.8 billion over 4 years for life saving and life changing research, informed by the Government’s Medical Research Future Fund 10 Year Plan.
* $648.6 million for Stage 2 of the Government’s Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Reform Plan, to ensure Australians can access appropriate mental health care.
* $522 million to continue to implement the 5 year generational reform plan within the 5 pillars for Australia’s aged care system to deliver respect, care and dignity to senior Australians in response to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.

**Guaranteeing Medicare and Access to Medicines**

***Guaranteeing Medicare***

Guaranteeing Medicare is a key pillar of the Long Term National Health Plan. The Government will invest $133.0 billion into Medicare over 4 years, an increase of $7.3 billion since the 2021–22 Budget. This includes, $31.4 billion in 2022–23, $32.0 billion in 2023–24, $34.0 billion in 2024–25 and $35.5 billion in 2025–26. This is up from $19.4 billion in 2012–13.

The Government is ensuring the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) delivers wide ranging support for clinical best practice treatments and therapies by continuing to add and amend MBS items for Medicare subsidy. In the 2022–23 Budget, this investment is worth $170.6 million for a range of new MBS items, including:

* $81.2 million to make Mackenzie’s Mission for genetic carrier screening universal and permanent. This includes testing for cystic fibrosis, spinal muscular atrophy and fragile X syndrome in people who are planning pregnancy, and their reproductive partners, from 1 November 2023. Mackenzie’s Mission has already been transformed into standard of care for all Australians, and new Medicare access will be provided to every Australian couple with this investment in universal carrier screening.
* $32.6 million for positron emission tomography for initial staging for patients diagnosed with rare and uncommon cancers.
* $6.6 million for abdominoplasty for surgical repair of postpartum rectus diastasis (separation of the large abdominal muscles) following pregnancy.
* $10.6 million for an amendment to the current MRI of the breast item for patients at high risk of developing breast cancer, raising the age limit from 50 to 60.

The Government is continuing to implement reforms to the MBS from the MBS Review Taskforce recommendations, and recommendations from the Medical Services Advisory Committee.

***Australia’s Primary Health Care 10 Year Plan***

The Government continues to prioritise support for primary care, and is investing $632.8 million to support primary care reforms with the release of the Primary Health Care 10 Year Plan. This builds on previous Government investment of $1.1 billion, bringing total investment to $1.7 billion to date. Australia’s primary care system is world class, and has been a central driving force at the heart of Australia’s COVID-19 pandemic response.

Telehealth, as a permanent feature of Australia’s health system, is the most significant structural reform to Medicare since it began, and has revolutionised the patient-doctor relationship. It is one of the most significant, long term benefits of the Government’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic, providing all Australians with improved access to health services. The Government has invested $512 million to ensure telehealth remains a permanent part of the health system. More than 100 million telehealth services have been delivered to Australian patients from March 2020 to March 2022.

The Government is investing $23.8 million over 4 years on a suite of measures that will further support general practice. These measures will support practice accreditation, allow the Australian Digital Health Agency to build data linkages between the My Health Record and the MyGP system currently being developed by Services Australia, invest in Practice and Workforce Incentive Programs to include telehealth items in the calculation of the Standardised Whole Patient Equivalent from 1 January 2022, and establish a governance and advisory group to oversee the implementation of the Primary Health Care 10 Year Plan.

The Government will also provide additional funding of $56.0 million in 2022–23 to support Primary Health Networks (PHNs) to plan, coordinate, support and commission population-based after hours health care services, providing an important alternative to access care without presenting to a hospital emergency department.

An additional $12.0 million over 2 years will further support Healthdirect’s 24 hour phone service, providing accurate, trusted and quality health information and advice. Healthdirect has experienced increased demand during the pandemic, and this additional funding will allow for Victoria to join the jurisdictions which already access the service.

Dental and oral health is a key part of primary care, and the Government is supporting the continuation of the Federation Funding Agreement on Public Dental Services for Adults for an additional 12 months, to 30 June 2023. An investment of $107.8 million will continue access to public dental services for concession card holders, helping to deliver public dental services for an additional 180,000 adult patients per year.

***10 Year Stronger Rural Health Strategy***

The Government is continuing its ongoing investment in improving Australians’ access to quality health care, no matter where they live, through its focus on supplying a quality health workforce distributed across the country to respond to community need. The Government continues to successfully deliver the 10 Year Stronger Rural Health Strategy (the Strategy) by investing $296.5 million in the 2022–23 Budget, building on the original investment of $550.0 million.

The Government is investing $66 million into improving access to critical and life saving diagnostic imaging in regional and rural areas by deregulating access to Medicare funded MRI services. The Government is removing the current MRI machine licensing requirements from 1 November 2022 in Modified Monash Model (MMM) 2–7 areas, enabling increased access to subsidised, clinically-necessary MRI services at any comprehensive diagnostic imaging facility that meets quality and safety requirements.

An investment of $99.3 million will build training and education opportunities in rural areas. The Government will increase the number of medical Commonwealth Supported Places available at rural campuses by 80. This will give more Australians the opportunity to study and become a doctor in rural areas.

Additionally, $1.0 million will be provided to Bullwinkel Scholars to establish 21 scholarships through the Australian College of Nursing to support nurses seeking to further their professional development in leadership.

Further investment of $36.2 million will establish 2 new University Departments of Rural Health (UDRH) in the South West and Goldfields regions of Western Australia as part of the Government’s support for allied health, nursing and medical training in regional, rural and remote Australia.

The Government is investing an additional $56.8 million for aeromedical services, to ensure people in rural and remote Australia can access health services, regardless of their distance from other medical services.

A new 10 year strategic agreement will support the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) with an additional $33.3 million over 4 years for their ongoing work delivering services in rural and remote locations, taking the Government’s full support for the RFDS to $991.7 million over the next 10 years.

The Government is also investing $18.0 million to guarantee rescue services and emergency aeromedical services through CareFlight. This funding will expand aeromedical support to remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the Top End region of the Northern Territory. Additionally, $4.1 million will be provided to Little Wings over 4 years to purchase one fixed-wing aircraft to increase service capacity and meet ongoing operational costs associated with delivering aeromedical services in rural and regional New South Wales (NSW) and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT).

Additional funding of $17.2 million over 4 years will be provided to Heart of Australia to continue to operate 5 mobile health clinics in Queensland. Patients in 32 communities across regional, rural and remote Queensland will benefit through continued availability of Heart of Australia specialist and diagnostic services. This includes the use of mobile and static clinics to provide specialist medical consultations in cardiology, endocrinology, sleep medicine, psychiatry, geriatric medicine, immunology, general medicine, neurology, gastroenterology and gynaecology. These services will expand to include mobile x-ray and computerised tomography scans from 2022.

As part of the Government’s commitment to improving access to maternity services in rural and remote communities, the Government is providing $300,000 to appoint a Senior MidWifery Advisor to consult and map collaborative maternity service models, and develop options to integrate these into current and emerging general practice (GP) models.

***Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health***

The Government is investing more than $133.5 million to prioritise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health outcomes, with a total investment of $4.6 billion over 4 years. This health investment, and the Government’s priority reforms, follow the priorities and objectives of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

Investment includes $13.9 million towards the Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship Scheme which, over 2 years, supports 300 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander undergraduate students in health-related disciplines with full time scholarships worth up to $15,000 each per year, and part time scholarships of up to $7,500 each per year.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, along with all Australians, will benefit from the Government’s overall investment of $537.0 billion across the entire Health portfolio. Specific health initiatives and funding to benefit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people include:

* $5.9 million to support priority populations, in particular Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and culturally and linguistically diverse background (CALD) communities, to catch up on missed health screening opportunities.
* $8.6 million to establish the National Closing the Gap Policy Partnership on Social and Emotional Wellbeing to maintain momentum in reducing the devastating impact of mental ill-health and suicide on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, families and communities.
* $2.4 million, as part of the $16.6 million to support local mental health services in response to the 2022 East Coast floods, for local Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations to deliver culturally appropriate,
locally-designed mental health services in impacted communities.

***Improving access to medicines***

The Government is investing $525.3 million over 4 years to lower the PBS safety net thresholds from 1 July 2022 by the equivalent of 12 fully priced scripts for concession card holders, and the equivalent of approximately 2 fully priced scripts for non concessional patients. The safety net thresholds will be lowered from $326.40 to $244.80 for concessional patients, and from $1,542.10 to $1,457.10 for general patients. This will provide more than 2.4 million Australians with earlier access to free or significantly cheaper PBS medicines. This continues to drive more affordable and accessible medicines for all Australians through the PBS.

Since 2013, the Government has approved more than 2,800 new or amended listings on the PBS, at an overall investment of around $15.0 billion.

In the 2022–23 Budget, $2.4 billion will be invested in new and amended listings on the PBS, including treatments for cancer, cystic fibrosis, severe eczema, asthma, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection and heart failure.

New listings from April 2022 include:

* An investment of $1.1 billion for Trikafta®, the combination product of elexacaftor/tezacaftor/ivacaftor and ivacaftor for the treatment of cystic fibrosis, helping an average of 1,900 patients reduce their out-of-pocket costs from around $250,000 a year.

New listings from May 2022 include:

* An investment of $187.2 million for Ofev® (nintedanib) for use in the treatment of progressive fibrosing interstitial lung disease, which will save more than 1,400 Australian patients $40,000 a year.
* An investment of $153.6 million for Zolgensma® (onasemnogene abeparvovec) for the treatment of spinal muscular atrophy, which will save an average of 20 patients each year more than $2.5 million for the treatment.
* An investment of $183.3 million for Trodelvy® (sacituzumab govitecan) for the treatment of triple negative breast cancer, which will save an average of 580 patients each year $80,000 per course of treatment.

The Government has also listed the COVID-19 treatment molnupiravir (Lagevrio®) on the PBS, which is now available on prescription to help prevent vulnerable Australians from developing more severe COVID-19, which is preventing hospitalisations and saving lives.

Additionally, $38.2 million is being invested in replacing a range of medication stocks within the National Medical Stockpile (NMS). The NMS maintains critical supplies of medication which can be deployed in the event of a natural disaster, accident, or terrorist attack. It will also allow the purchase of influenza treatments to ensure continued preparedness for the upcoming flu season.

***Digital health***

The Government is investing $72.0 million in the modernisation of the health system, delivering innovative new methods to provide care and continue the momentum for embracing new technologies.

The Health Delivery Modernisation Program centres on strengthening primary health care through digital enablement, delivering new digital health services and modernising the Services Australia health payments system for all Australians.

An investment of $72.0 million over 4 years will support Phase 3 of the Health Delivery Modernisation Program, which will commence the transformation of health payments and services to put the needs of health care consumers at the centre of their care, and better enable health care providers through simple, helpful, respectful and transparent government services, and to expand critical health system capabilities to deliver health policies and reforms. For the first time, this will deliver a focus for the majority of investment on improving interactions with Medicare for healthcare organisations, providers and consumers.

The Government is also investing $64.5 million in 2022–23 to extend the 2018–22 Intergovernmental Agreement on National Digital Health (IGA) for one year. The IGA funds the operation of national digital health infrastructure and implementation of national priorities, including under Australia’s National Digital Health Strategy – Safe, Seamless and Secure.

**Supporting Australia’s Hospitals**

Under the 2020–25 Addendum to the National Health Reform Agreement (NHRA) and the National Partnership on COVID-19 Response, the Government has increased hospital funding up from $13.3 billion in 2012–13 to $28.1 billion in
2022–23 and $32.7 billion in 2025–26. The Government will invest a total of $149.8 billion over 5 years in public hospitals.

The Government is contributing $375.6 million to establish a Western Australian Comprehensive Cancer Centre to improve access to world class cancer care and ensure better health outcomes for Western Australians with cancer, which will include 10 operating theatres, an emergency department and intensive care unit.

The Government continues to improve the value and affordability of private health insurance in Australia’s mixed public and private health care system. The Government’s plan to make private health insurance more sustainable and retain choice continues to move ahead through landmark reforms to the Prostheses List (PL).

The medical technology industry’s commitment to the multi-year PL reforms has been secured through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Medical Technology Association of Australia, which is anticipated to deliver savings of around $900 million for consumers and the private health insurance system through significant reductions in prices for medical devices.

The Government has instituted the most significant structural reforms in 2 decades, which continue to place significant downward pressure on premium changes for consumers. The 2022 average premium change of 2.7% is the lowest in 21 years, and the eighth successive decline in premium changes since 2012–13.

The Government continues to implement these reforms and investments to improve value for the 14 million (or 54.8%) Australians who have private health insurance, and to support the private healthcare sector to deliver quality care. Private health insurance is now at a record level, with almost 760,000 Australians having taken up some type of private health insurance in the last 6 years, including more than 300,000 since January 2021.

**National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan – Stage 2**

The Government will continue to deliver structural reform for mental health and suicide prevention by building on the $2.3 billion initial investment in the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan announced in the 2021–22 Budget. Together with other mental health and suicide commitments in the 2022–23 Budget worth $648.6 million, the total value of this Plan is now nearly $3.0 billion.

The National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan is based on 5 priority areas, with total investment to date of:

* $336.3 million for prevention and early intervention
* $344.7 million for suicide prevention
* $1.8 billion for treatment
* $149.8 million for support for the vulnerable
* $290.9 million for workforce and governance.

***Prevention and early intervention***

The Government is investing $86.2 million in prevention and early intervention as part of the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan – Stage 2.

This support includes $63.6 million to continue supporting digital mental health services in response to ongoing pressure felt due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including support for Lifeline’s 13HELP line.

To better manage mental health and wellbeing concerns in schools, the Government is investing $9.7 million to establish a National Measure of Student Wellbeing, National Guidelines for the Accreditation of Mental Health and Wellbeing Programs, and to develop trauma informed professional development offerings and resources for teachers to better manage classroom behaviours.

Other prevention and early intervention investment includes:

* $3.9 million to contribute to evidence-based mental health and suicide prevention research activities and services delivered by the Thompson Institute at the University of the Sunshine Coast, Queensland.
* $3.3 million for the Raise Foundation to deliver its best practice, early intervention and prevention student mentoring program to vulnerable students for a further 2 years.
* $1.8 million for the Raising Children Network to support and further develop the Raising Healthy Minds app, which aims to improve the mental health literacy of Australian parents and carers to identify signs of social or emotional ill-health in their children.

***Suicide prevention***

The Government is committed to working towards zero suicides, and is investing $46.7 million to strengthen suicide prevention activities in local communities across the country.

The Government will invest $42.7 million to build on the success of suicide prevention trials and, for the first time, establish targeted regional initiatives for suicide prevention in every Primary Health Network (PHN) region, strengthening the capacity for communities to implement system-wide responses to reduce the risk of suicide in their region.

This comprises $10.4 million to fund a Suicide Prevention Regional Response Leader in each of Australia’s 31 PHNs, with responsibility for engagement, coordination and integration of early intervention and suicide prevention activities across their region, ensuring communities have access to proactive and seamless support. Additionally, $30.2 million will deploy regional and community‑based suicide prevention systems across all PHNs nationally.

The Government is also investing $4.0 million to expand on the existing research in suicide prevention, by providing a further 2 years of funding for the Suicide Prevention Research Fund delivered by Suicide Prevention Australia.

***Treatment***

The Government is committed to providing accessible and effective mental health treatment through a $391.7 million investment.

The Government is investing $206.5 million for the Early Psychosis Youth Services (EPYS) Program to ensure continuity of care for vulnerable young Australians experiencing, or at risk of, psychosis. The EPYS network will also be expanded to all jurisdictions through the addition of 2 new hub sites in Tasmania and the ACT.

To support Australians who suffer from an eating disorder, the Government will invest $24.3 million to establish new eating disorder treatment options, and fund existing services. This investment includes $20.0 million over 4 years for specialised treatment services to be delivered in local community settings, supporting innovative and evidence-based models of care tailored to address identified local need.

To deliver better integrated and holistic care for Australians accessing mental health care, funding of $15.1 million will introduce new MBS items to enable case conferencing for patients with a mental health or eating disorder. Up to 4 case conferencing sessions per calendar year will be available for patients with a referral under a Mental Health Treatment Plan, those already accessing MBS‑subsidised care under Better Access to Psychiatrists, Psychologists and GPs, or with a diagnosed eating disorder.

As part of the Government’s commitment to enhance capacity within the health sector for victim-survivors of family, domestic and sexual violence, the Government is investing:

• $67.2 million (2022–23 to 2025–26) to pilot multidisciplinary care teams in 6 existing locations delivering trauma-informed mental health therapies designed to meet the needs of victim-survivors

• $20.0 million (over 4 years from 2022–23, $25.0 million over 5 years) to the Illawarra Women’s Centre to support the establishment of a women’s trauma recovery centre.

Additionally, $14.3 million will enhance the capacity of new and existing headspace services to provide critical services to young Australians, particularly in rural and remote areas.

The Government is investing $1.6 million for the YMCA Peninsula Youth Services, toward its integrated multi-disciplinary mental health and wellbeing services for young people experiencing mental ill-health in the Southern Mornington Peninsula, Victoria.

The Government is also investing $32.9 million to ensure that mental health services and treatment are available to support Australians impacted by natural disasters and other emergency response events. This includes:

* $31.2 million in mental health initiatives to support Australians impacted by the recent flood emergency in NSW and Queensland.
* $946,000 to extend the MBS items for Australians impacted by the bushfires for a further 6 months until 30 June 2022.
* $800,000 to provide mental health support to Tasmania’s Devonport community including families, children and first responders as a response to the 16 December 2021 Hillcrest Primary School tragedy.

Further treatment investments include:

* $4.0 million to the Black Dog Institute to establish a new National Mental Health Service for Emergency Service Workers and Volunteers.
* $5.0 million to continue the Head to Health Pop Up clinics in NSW until 31 December 2022.
* $500,000 to accelerate the provision of headspace services in the Hawkesbury region due to the impact of the recent floods.

***Supporting vulnerable Australians***

The Government is committing $34.9 million to ensure all Australians have equitable access to effective, culturally appropriate mental health services. This includes:

* $8.6 million over 3 years to establish the National Closing the Gap Policy Partnership on Social and Emotional Wellbeing to maintain momentum in reducing the impact of mental ill-health and suicide on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, families and communities. The scope of the Partnership will be co-designed with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and state and territory governments.
* $8.5 million in the Red Dust Program, under the Commonwealth’s National Rural and Remote Mental Health Strategy, will be aimed at identifying initiatives that successfully address the broader social determinants of mental health in rural and remote communities.

The funding will support culturally appropriate mental health care in Northern Territory communities, with a focus on social and emotional wellbeing, sexual health, relationships, alcohol and other drugs, and fetal alcohol spectrum disorder.

The Government is investing $17.8 million to help deliver targeted, evidence-based mental health support to CALD communities in Australia as part of its commitment to improving equitable access to mental health care. This investment includes:

* $10 million in top-up funding for the 26-year Program of Assistance for Survivors of Torture and Trauma to continue to meet forecast demand for support to humanitarian entrants and survivors of torture and trauma.
* $7.8 million to ensure translating and interpreting services are available through PHNs-commissioned mental health services, removing a significant barrier to accessing these services for CALD Australians.

***Workforce and governance***

The Government remains committed to growing the mental health workforce and strengthening governance across the sector. Central to this commitment is investing $60.7 million to implement the 10 year National Mental Health Workforce Strategy (the Strategy) to deliver a sustainable, skilled, supported and equitably distributed mental health workforce to meet Australia’s current and future needs. This includes:

* $18.3 million to build a contemporary mental health workforce, and optimise the existing workforce, through developing and piloting the National Mental Health Pathways to Practice Program. The program will establish appropriately supervised nursing and allied health student mental health placements in a mix of rural, remote and metropolitan trial areas, and establish supervised internships for provisional psychologists in a range of settings to deliver services. It will also increase the number of Psychology Board of Australia endorsed supervisors and address barriers to psychology registration.
* $28.6 million to sustain growth in the psychiatry workforce, and build on existing investments to support up to 30 additional training posts and supervisors from 2023 to 2026, develop a rural and remote psychiatry training pathway and network, and encourage more medical graduates to pursue psychiatry through the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists’ Psychiatry Interest Forum.

Additional mental health workforce investments include:

* $6 million to enhance existing workforce capabilities, including a free national support line for general practitioners (GPs) to access clinical advice and support from psychiatrists.
* $2.2 million to support the mental health of the health workforce, including the Hand-in-Hand program to provide peer support to health professionals such as doctors, nurses, allied health professionals, paramedics, healthcare students and non-clinical staff, and the Black Dog Institute’s The Essential Network.
* $409,000 for stigma reduction among secondary and tertiary students to reduce stigmatising attitudes and behaviours toward people with mental ill-health, and promote the mental health workforce as a positive career path.
* $904,000 to establish a mental health workforce strategic coordination and distribution mechanism to coordinate activity between governments, industry and across sectors.
* $725,000 for data planning, monitoring and evaluation, and to address gaps in mental health workforce data.

Further to this, the Government is providing $4.2 million to support headspace centres in regional, rural and remote areas to attract and employ GPs, enabling headspace services to deliver the complete model of enhanced primary care.

**Preventive Health**

***National Preventive Health Strategy 2021–2030***

In the 2022–23 Budget, the Government is investing $30.1 million over 4 years to support the next phase of implementation activities under the National Preventive Health Strategy 2021–2030 (the Strategy). Funding prioritises 3 key areas of the Strategy that are critical to reducing the burden of disease: embedding prevention in the health system, increasing physical activity, and improving nutrition. This includes:

* Establishing evidence for a preventive health program that connects patients from primary health care to local, community-based services to address the risk factors and influences of poor health and wellbeing.
* Continuing the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners Healthy Habits program, to assist GPs to support patients to undertake positive lifestyle changes through behavioural interventions.
* Continuing core activities under the 5 National Blood Borne Viruses (BBV) and Sexually Transmissible Infections (STI) Strategies 2018–2022 in order to eliminate HIV, viral hepatitis and STIs as public health threats by 2030.
* Continuing the Asthma Management Program to improve the management of asthma in the community, and to promote appropriate access to medical support and assistance.
* Enabling the Heart Foundation to build on and expand their successful walking initiatives to increase physical activity and participation of at risk groups.
* Updating the adult and the older Australian Physical Activity Guidelines with the latest evidence in order to integrate 24 hour movement behaviours, including physical activity, sedentary behaviour and sleep.
* Developing a multisectoral, whole-of-government National Nutrition Policy Framework to identify, prioritise, drive and monitor healthy eating in Australia.
* Supporting a feasibility study to explore the landscape of unhealthy food and drink advertising to children.

The Government is investing $1.0 million in activities to improve the long term health outcomes for all Australian men and boys, including:

* $700,000 for clinical guidelines to promote early detection and treatment of prostate cancer
* $300,000 for a gap analysis to better inform future investment needs and priorities for male health.

The Government is also increasing the focus on allergies and anaphylaxis, with an investment of $26.9 million to improve prevention, diagnosis, treatment and management of allergic diseases, as well as support and advice for sufferers and their families.

This investment also supports Commonwealth-specific recommendations in the report by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport into Allergies and Anaphylaxis in 2019.

***Post-COVID health check-ups***

The Government is focused on addressing the decline in critically important cancer and health screening which occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic. More than $55.7 million is being invested to provide catch-up screening for breast, bowel, prostate and cervical cancers. Part of this funding will also remind Australians to focus on their overall health, with a new $15.0 million communication campaign encouraging people to stay up to date with their health checks and to inform Australians about the availability of telehealth services, electronic prescriptions, and online mental health services.

The Government will establish a CALD Health Advisory Group, which will leverage engagement with CALD communities into important health messaging. This will ensure people from a wide variety of backgrounds, and with an equally diverse range of health needs, receive timely and tailored health information through an investment of $10.6 million.

***Pancreatic cancer***

The Government will provide a grant worth $5.0 million to the Jreissati Family Pancreatic Centre at Epworth in Victoria. The funding will support efforts to seek ways to detect pancreatic cancer early and improve treatment options. It will also help foster national and global collaborations and sharing of expertise and resources in the understanding and treatment of pancreatic cancer.

***Genomics Australia***

The Government is providing $28.1 million to establish a new Commonwealth entity to support the implementation of genomics as a standard of healthcare in Australia, Genomics Australia. This will oversee the 10-year genomics mission. Genomics Australia will lead and coordinate a national program of work to support the integration of genomic medicine into routine clinical care in Australia in an efficient, effective, ethical and equitable way.

The integration of genomic medicine into routine clinical care will enable Australians to access appropriate genomic sequencing technologies when necessary, providing early and more accurate diagnoses and the identification of treatments that can substantially improve health outcomes and save lives.

***Women’s health***

The Government is investing more than $333.0 million to strengthen health services available to women and girls through a range of new and continuing initiatives including, focusing on heart health, endometriosis, sexual and maternal health, as part of the National Women’s Health Strategy 2020–2030 (the Strategy). This includes:

* $1.5 million to fund the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists to establish a National Advisory Council for Women’s Health to evaluate and monitor the implementation of the Strategy.
* $4.2 million for grants to fund community-led initiatives and organisations to support the health of vulnerable Australian women and girls, with a focus on priority populations including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, migrant and refugee women, ageing women and women with disability.
* $500,000 to provide a grant to Her Heart for the continuation of the Her Heart Hub website, and delivery of Her Heart’s annual cardiovascular health conference.

As part of this investment, the Government is providing $58.1 million to support women experiencing endometriosis. This includes:

* $25.5 million for a new MBS item for pelvic MRI for investigation of infertility, including patients with endometriosis, from 1 November 2022.
* $16.4 million to establish 16 endometriosis and pelvic pain clinics in general practice.
* $5.1 million to develop a Endometriosis Management Plan to support patients in primary care.
* $5.1 million in the National Endometriosis Clinical and Scientific Trials Network to continue growing research capacity and address research gaps.
* $2.0 million for the Endometriosis Living Guideline to support new and ongoing research into the diagnosis and management of endometriosis.
* $2.0 million for the Australian Coalition for Endometriosis for activities including increasing awareness of endometriosis amongst priority populations, implementing a Mentor Program to support those newly diagnosed with endometriosis, and implementing a Workplace Assistance Program to support employees and employers to navigate discussions in the workplace.
* $1.4 million to implement the EndoZone digital platform to provide a gateway for consumers to access evidence-based information on endometriosis.
* $500,000 over 2 years for promotion of the Australian Clinical Practice Guideline for the Diagnosis and Management of Endometriosis.
* $300,000 over 2 years to promote access to the suite of MBS and PBS items for diagnosis, and treatment of endometriosis.

In addition to other health initiatives for women’s health across the portfolio, the Government is also committing $137.6 million for targeted health measures to prioritise women’s safety as part of the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032, to address the poorer health and mental health outcomes for women who have experienced intimate partner violence and/or sexual violence. This includes:

* $48.7 million over 4 years to enhance and expand primary care models nation‑wide for people who have experienced family, domestic and sexual violence to navigate the health system and access services in all states and territories, and extend 6 existing pilot sites.
* $67.2 million over 4 years to pilot a national model of trauma-informed recovery care through PHNs, improving coordination and access to specialised, multidisciplinary recovery services.
* $20.0 million over 4 years ($25.0 million over 5 years) to support the Illawarra Women’s Centre to establish a women’s trauma recovery centre.
* $1.7 million to address the impacts of female genital mutilation/cutting which primarily affects migrant women in Australia.

***Alcohol and other drugs***

The Government is investing a further $343.6 million to provide ongoing support for the National Ice Action Strategy and delivery of critical drug and alcohol treatment services, prevention programs and research activities. These programs deliver prevention activities aimed at minimising the use of alcohol and other drugs, provide interactive, evidence-based drug and alcohol education resources, deliver clinical research into new treatment options, increase collaboration between practitioners and researchers, and enhance the effectiveness of clinical care.

The Government is investing $19.6 million over 4 years to expand the Take Home Naloxone program nationally, which will make the opioid overdose-reversing medication available at no cost and without a prescription in all Australian states and territories.

The Pilot program found that since commencement in December 2019, naloxone has been used to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose at least 3 times a day, saving up to 1,649 lives. With a similar proportion of refills supplied in a national program, there is the potential for over 4,000 overdose medical events to be averted each year.

The Government is also investing $9.2 million to help build safe and healthy communities by reducing the impact of drug and alcohol misuse, including the extension of critical alcohol and other drug treatment services.

**Sport**

Consistent investment in sport under the Government’s National Sport Plan, Sport 2030, promotes a strong economy and healthy communities. The social connections provided by sport brings Australians together, contributing to improved health and wellbeing outcomes in line with the Long Term National Health Plan.

***Major sporting events***

The Government is investing to ensure Australia grows its reputation as a
pre-eminent sporting host nation. Sport will be a significant focus for all Australians over the coming ‘green and gold decade’, capped off with the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. In the coming years, Australia will play host to a series of international showcase sporting events unparalleled in Australia’s history, and unlike any other nation.

The Government is investing $10.5 million over 2 years to maximise social, economic and sporting outcomes from the ‘green and gold decade’ of major sporting events. This includes legacy initiatives for the FIBA Women’s Basketball World Cup 2022, ICC T20 Men’s World Cup 2022, FIFA Women’s World Cup 2023 and World Transplant Games 2023 to drive increased community engagement, gender equality and physical activity participation.

The Government will support the successful delivery of the Rugby World Cup 2027 and Women’s Rugby World Cup 2029, should the bid be successful, to ensure rugby is counted alongside the top road cycling, basketball, soccer, cricket, netball and other major sporting events Australia will host over the next 10 years.

The Government is investing $10.6 million over 3 years to support Paralympic sports in preparing for and attending the Paris 2024 Summer Paralympic Games. Paralympics Australia will send one of Australia’s largest ever teams to the Games, which are the pinnacle of sporting achievement for many athletes with disability.

***Women’s leadership in sport***

The Government is investing $10.3 million to promote and create leadership, safety, and long term employment opportunities for women and girls in sport to increase workforce diversity across the sector and reduce female underrepresentation in sport.

The measures supporting these outcomes are:

* $6.3 million to fund an expanded Women Coaches Programto identify, develop and empower more than 200 women coaches per year, from grassroots to elite level.
* $4.1 million for Community Sport Leaders to support women to take up and hold leadership programs in local sporting clubs and associations.

***Sport participation programs***

The Government is investing $79.6 million in the extension of the Sporting Schools program to 31 December 2024 to support children, young people, and their parents to reconnect with sport in a safe and healthy way.

Additionally, the Government is investing $16.6 million over 4 years to fund the continuation of existing successful initiatives that inform and increase participation in sport, including:

* $10.3 million over 2 years for Sport Participation Grants to support organisations to deliver tailored participation activities, making sport more inclusive, accessible and enjoyable.
* $3.4 million from existing funds over 4 years for AusPlay to provide data on physical activity levels in the community, participation in sport across Australia, motivations and drivers for participation, and fill a major gap in the evidence base for sport.
* $2.8 million over 4 years for the National Sport Injury Database extension, to build on the piloted data collection activities and enable establishment of the database to collate and quantify issues related to sport injury at a national level.

***Sport integrity and governance***

The Government is investing in the integrity of sports in Australia with $27.3 million over 2 years to enable the success of the ‘green and gold decade’ and ensure Australians have confidence in their sporting organisations. Funding will:

* enable Sport Integrity Australia to continue delivering on the Government’s intended outcomes, meet the expectations of sports, and ensure long term financial sustainability
* enable the Australian Sports Drug Testing Laboratory to enable continued expert analysis of samples collected through Sport Integrity Australia’s
anti-doping program.

**Life Saving and Job Creating Medical Research**

Over 4 years from 2022–23, the Government is investing $6.8 billion in medical research, including:

* $2.6 billion from the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF)
* $3.7 billion from the National Health and Medical Research Council
* $500 million from the Biomedical Translation Fund.

***Medical Research Future Fund***

The $20 billion MRFF is underpinned by a 10 year Investment Plan. The Government has updated the MRFF 10 year Investment Plan, with a commitment of funding from the MRFF of $6.3 billion for the years between 2022–23 to 2031–32, building on existing investments in the current 10 year Investment Plan which totalled $5.1 billion from 2018–19 to 2027–28. This investment will drive world­ leading medical research and clinical trials, leading to improvements in health outcomes for Australians, as well as creating jobs and economic growth.

The new 10 year Investment Plan includes new funding of $384.2 million to support Australia’s upcoming early to mid‑career researchers to keep them engaged with the sector and working on Australia’s greatest health challenges. This initiative will particularly assist women in research, who are often the most disadvantaged, especially those who also have primary caregiving responsibilities.

The Government’s MRFF investments are making a tangible difference to Australians, with 722 grants totalling $1.95 billion awarded to date. The investments are priority‑led and translation-focused, and will lead to better patient outcomes and health care practices. The multi-year, long term approach supported by the second 10 year Investment Plan will allow researchers to plan projects, make breakthrough discoveries, increase health efficiencies, and generate beneficial changes to health practice.

In this Budget, the Government is providing $303.5 million in new grants and funding opportunities to assist researchers around the country to tackle health problems including dementia, the wellbeing of Indigenous mothers and their babies, and cancer. The grant funding, which is divided among newly announced grants and newly opened opportunities, comes from the MRFF.

***Biotechnology Strategic Plan***

The Government is also announcing the Biotechnology in Australia – Strategic Plan (the Plan) for Health and Medicine to support the development of a vibrant and thriving biotechnology sector in Australia. Biotechnology is creating medicines and technologies that can combat debilitating and rare diseases, helping to improve the health of thousands. The Plan will directly benefit around 70,000 people who work in the medical technology and biotechnology sectors across research and industry in Australia, by growing capacity and capability to research and manufacture biotechnology in Australia.

**Ageing and Aged Care: Respect, Care and Dignity**

The Government has completed the first year of reforms in response to the Aged Care Royal Commission, and is now entering the second of the 5 year reform program.

The 2022–23 Budget includes an additional $522.0 million in aged care to further the work of these reforms, bringing the total investment over 4 years to $18.8 billion. Since 2012–13, when the investment in aged care was $13.3 billion, government investment in aged care has grown by 161%, to reach a record $34.7 billion in 2025–26. The Government’s total investment in aged care has increased by $10.1 billion, compared to the 2021–22 Budget.

In the 12 months since responding to the Royal Commission, the number of people accessing a Home Care Package (HCP) has grown significantly, with around 235,600 people expected to be accessing a HCP by 30 June 2022. In 2022–23, another 40,000 new HCPs will be released, bringing the figure to 275,600 people. This Budget invests $5.4 million to continue consultation and development of the new regulatory framework for the new Support at Home program, ensuring senior Australians who choose to access aged care from their own home can have confidence in the program.

An additional investment of $20.1 million will support the transition from the current funding and pricing model to the new Australian National Aged Care Classification (AN-ACC) model in October 2022. The implementation of AN-ACC will drive improvements for aged care residents as it is based on the needs of residents, and improve transparency over the way funding is allocated among residential aged care providers.

The Government will help improve the medication management and safety of senior Australians living in residential aged care facilities (RACFs) with an investment of $345.7 million for on-site pharmacist and community pharmacy services. This will complement the previous measures in the 2021–22 Budget for digital capabilities in RACFs to support medication management services and ensure safe use of medications.

The Government is also investing $22.1 million to provide access to quality, multidisciplinary care with increased integration across primary and aged care, and health and aged care systems.

This funding will deliver a Multidisciplinary Outreach Services trial, which will offer hospital‑led access to specialists and other health practitioners for residents of RACFs.

The Government’s investment of $21.6 million will support a surge workforce for the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission to assist the Commission to undertake residential aged care audits, increasing quality and safety assessments.

The Government will also invest $32.8 million to continue improving the workforce and delivery of quality care across the aged care, disability and veterans’ care sectors. This funding will also ensure barriers to clinical placements in the care and support sector are addressed, attracting 5,250 more nurses. In particular:

* $14.3 million to expand the Rural Health Multidisciplinary Training Program in aged care to an additional 5 locations in the Northern Territory, Victoria, NSW and remote Queensland to enhance the quality of aged care services in rural and remote areas, create opportunities for nursing, allied health, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to pursue a health workforce career, and ease the workforce pressure in regional and rural areas.

In addition, the Government will invest:

* $6.9 million over 3 years to stage the rollout of a national Co-operative and Mutual Enterprises (CME) Support Program to increase the number of CMEs across the Australian social care sector, including the aged, mental health, disability and veterans’ care sectors. The rollout will support the aged care and broader care and support workforce to develop sustainable and coordinated approaches in growing a skilled workforce.
* $10.8 million over one year to progress the work of the Cross-Agency Taskforce on Regulatory Alignment to align regulation across the care and support sector ­­– aged care, disability support (NDIS and other Commonwealth-funded disability services), and veterans’ care. This work is intended to improve quality and safety for consumers and participants, and reduce duplication of regulatory obligations and processes for service providers and workers, enabling them to operate more seamlessly across the care and support sector.

The Government is investing $48.5 million over 2 years from 2022–23 for the JobTrainer Aged Care Boost (part of the JobTrainer Fund), to be matched by states and territories to deliver 15,000 low fee and free training places in aged care courses from January 2023. These places are in addition to the 33,800 aged care training places announced in the 2021–22 Budget.

This will extend the enrolment period in aged care courses from the current end date of 31 December 2022 to 31 December 2023. Eligibility will continue to be available to anyone who enrols in training for the aged care workforce, regardless of age or employment status. This will provide a strong pipeline of entry-level aged care workers and enable existing aged care workers to upskill.

An investment of $6.1 million will continue the initial rollout of a regional stewardship model of governance for aged care, to ensure aged care supports for senior Australians are working at the local level, support greater integration across service systems and support the implementation of reforms.

**Sustained COVID-19 Response**

As Australia continues to live with COVID-19, the Government continues to invest strategically in vaccines, medicines, equipment, and health services to protect Australians from the worst impacts of COVID-19, while protecting health system capacity to ensure no compromise on the delivery of everyday health care.

In response to the continuing impacts of COVID-19, and in preparing for winter with the additional expected impact of influenza, the Government is providing $4.2 billion to extend the pandemic health response, with an investment of more than $45.0 billion since the beginning of the pandemic.

***National Partnership on COVID-19 Response***

The Government is providing $1.0 billion through extension of the National Partnership on COVID-19 Response, supporting the health system’s capacity and addressing some of the cost burden of the pandemic, where the Commonwealth is contributing:

* 50% of costs to test, diagnose and treat people with COVID-19
* 50% of the costs for each COVID-19 vaccine dose
* 50% for additional costs to set up state and territory vaccination sites
* 100% of costs to support infection prevention and control training for
COVID-19 preparedness in residential aged care facilities.

***COVID-19 vaccines***

Vaccination against COVID-19 remains the most effective way to prevent severe disease, hospitalisation and death as a result of the virus. An investment of an additional $690.4 million will continue the COVID-19 vaccination program to the end of 2022, allowing for completion of primary courses in newly eligible groups, including school aged children. This will also support the continued administration of booster doses, including additional doses for vulnerable cohorts, if recommended by the Therapeutic Goods Administration and the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation.

This funding provides for the continuation of all COVID-19 vaccine administration channels, including in-reach channels for aged care and disability, primary care administration, and support through the COVID-19 National Partnership Agreement to continue vaccination through state and territory vaccination clinics. With primary care providing the majority of booster doses to date, the Government will maintain MBS items through this Budget.

The funding also ensures the continued delivery of the national COVID-19 vaccination training program to ensure all COVID-19 vaccination providers are adequately trained in handling and administration of all COVID-19 vaccines used in the program.

***COVID-19 treatments***

The Government is ensuring Australians suffering from COVID-19 can access treatments to reduce the worst effects of the disease and speed up their recovery. Supplies of sotrovimab (XEVUDY®), PAXLOVID®, molnupiravir (Lagevrio®), EVUSHELD®, and remdesivir (VEKLURY®) have been added to the NMS and are already being distributed to help with COVID-19 treatment and prophylaxis in severely immunocompromised people. Molnupiravir (Lagevrio®) was listed on the PBS from 1 March 2022 to 31 January 2024 as a treatment for mild to moderate COVID‑19.

***Responding to COVID-19 in aged care***

Protecting vulnerable Australians from the COVID-19 pandemic remains a critical priority for the Government. In the 2022–23 Budget, the Government is investing $1.4 billion to continue the significant support for the aged care system to address COVID‑19, and provide broader support for winter preparedness within the sector.

The investment includes $124.9 million to extend the Aged Care Preparedness Measure, assisting providers to manage COVID-19 if they experience an outbreak.

The Government is investing $215.3 million to provide eligible aged care workers with bonus payment instalments worth up to $800, in recognition of their commitment and hard work during the COVID-19 pandemic. This support has included those delivering home care and residential direct care, food or cleaning services.

Additionally, $37.6 million will be provided to support more aged care nurses to access infection prevention and control leadership training, ensuring our nurses remain a strong foundation for response to COVID-19 outbreaks in RACFs.

The Government is also helping ensure that RACFs are better placed to distribute vaccinations, such as the seasonal influenza or COVID-19 vaccine, with an investment of $50.4 million over 4 years. This will provide 4,000 training places for Registered Nurses in RACFs to become Authorised Nurse Immunisers.

More than $1.09 billion has secured the necessary stockpile of personal protective equipment for the NMS. Supplies of facemasks, face shields, gloves, gowns and goggles have been secured to assist in outbreak management, particularly at RACFs and other frontline health service sites.

As part of the Government’s winter preparedness plan, the Government has committed to providing influenza treatment from the NMS to every single RACF in Australia, as well as ensuring the supply of COVID-19 treatments.

***COVID-19 testing***

As Australians live with COVID-19, it is increasingly important that cases can be identified. Early identification of a COVID-19 case enables individuals to take steps to prevent further spread by isolating and notifying potential close contacts, and watch for symptoms and test.

COVID-19 testing continues to inform Australia’s response to the pandemic and underpins the public health response through positive case isolation. The Government is continuing its investment in COVID-19 pathology testing, with a further $546.0 million for MBS items to conduct polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests.

Rapid antigen tests (RATs) also play an important role in detecting the virus, managing public health and safety, protecting vulnerable Australians and minimising disruptions to daily life. The Government is investing more than $1.6 billion to ensure equitable access to RATs.

Additional supplies of RATs for RACFs, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHs), GP-led respiratory clinics (GPRCs), and Supported Independent Living (SIL) residential disability care will also be secured.

As at 18 March 2022, the Government has distributed around 40.6 million RATs, including:

* 26.2 million to RACFs
* 1.35 million to ACCHs, including those in remote communities
* 480,000 to GPRCs, including in rural and remote communities
* 1.2 million for SIL residential disability care
* 11.3 million to states and territories, plus an additional 400,000 to the ACT Government.

The Government is extending the COVID-19 Rapid Test Concessional Access Program to enable concession card holders to access an additional 10 RATs from participating community pharmacies until 31 July 2022. Since the program commenced in January 2022, 5,612 (94.4%) pharmacies have delivered over 23.5 million RATs to more than 3.8 million eligible concession card holders.

The Government will also support access to free RATs for children in government and non-government schools and Early Childhood Education and Care. This program offers 50% reimbursement for state and territory government costs to provide 2 RATs per week over 4 weeks for COVID-19 surveillance testing of students, teachers and staff.

***COVID-19 primary care response***

The Government is investing $13.6 million to provide access to pulse oximeters and extended distribution arrangements for personal protective equipment from the National Medical Stockpile to general practice, community pharmacy and other primary health care settings to support the safe management COVID-positive people, with a particular emphasis on strengthening the supply chain for rural and remote practices.

Additionally, over $500,000 will be invested to support GPs to continue to provide face to face care to COVID-19 patients in the community.

An investment of $248.1 million will extend the operational timeframe for the GP‑led Respiratory Clinics Program, and network of up to 150 GPRCs across Australia until 30 September 2022. These GPRCs will continue to provide assessment and management of respiratory symptoms for patients, including those that are COVID‑positive. To date, GPRCs have serviced 2,497 postcodes nationally, covering 99.8% of the population.

A further $43.3 million will go to support the Remote and Indigenous Response to COVID-19 and continue the transition to living with COVID-19.

The COVID-19 Primary Care response continues to be underpinned by universal access to telehealth, which was made permanent by the Government in the
*2021–22 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook.*