



Strengthening Medicare and rebuilding primary health care

Strengthening Medicare and boosting general practice so all Australians can expect affordable, prompt and world-class medical care.

The **\$229.7m** Strengthening Medicare GP Grants Program will support GPs to provide better care and see more patients. One-off grants of up to **\$50,000** will be available for innovation, training, and equipment, and to improve patient access.

\$235m will commence the roll out of 50 Medicare Urgent Care Clinics, including **\$100m** to co-develop and pilot innovative models with states and territories to improve care pathways and inform program roll out.

There will be **\$8.6m** invested for new and expanded listings on the Medicare Benefits Schedule, including for nuclear medicine, genetic testing and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans.

The Government will work collaboratively with states and territories to deliver **\$638.8m** in critical health infrastructure and ensure access to essential services.

\$19.8m will strengthen women's health during and after pregnancy, including support for families bereaved by stillbirth. **\$26.2m** will fund a new national network of perinatal mental health and wellbeing centres. Australia's Newborn Bloodspot Screening (NBS) programs will be boosted through **\$39m**.

There is **\$114m** in additional mental health and suicide prevention initiatives, including **\$47.7m** to restore the loading for Medicare-subsidised online psychiatry consultations and a **\$23.5m** expansion of the headspace network.

Cancer patients and their families, medical professionals, and researchers will benefit from **\$452m** to deliver new Comprehensive Cancer Centres in Adelaide and Brisbane. **\$14.8m** will establish a Melanoma Nurses Program across Australia.

\$1.3m will improve health outcomes for LGBTIQ+ Australians.

A **\$3.4m** investment will establish a National Health Sustainability and Climate Unit and develop Australia's first National Health and Climate Strategy.

Preparatory work to establish an Australian Centre for Disease Control will begin with **\$3.2m** in funding.

Restoring dignity to aged care

Putting safety, dignity and quality into aged care with investments to implement reforms that meet the needs of aged care recipients.

The Government is investing **\$2.5b** in new legislated requirements for residential aged care homes to have a Registered Nurse onsite 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Mandatory care time requirements in residential aged care will also be lifted, increasing to 215 care minutes including 44 nursing minutes by 1 October 2024.

Aged care providers will be supported to adjust to the new Australian National Aged Care Classification (AN-ACC) funding model, implement increased care minutes and deliver enhanced reporting requirements.

\$810.2m will continue to support aged care providers with direct costs through reimbursement due to COVID-19 outbreaks in both residential and home care.

\$312.6m will improve Aged Care ICT platforms, to streamline processes to enable workers to spend more time providing care and to increase transparency, and up-to-date service information through My Aged Care.

An investment of **\$3.6m** will establish a new national registration scheme for personal care workers.

An additional **\$5m** will help train aged care staff on how to source, prepare and serve more nutritious and appetising food.

\$9.9m will establish an Aged Care Complaints Commissioner while **\$38.7m** will establish an Inspector-General of Aged Care.

The **\$68.5m** Strengthening Regional Stewardship measure will expand the Department's local presence to better lead and respond to aged care matters on the ground, including in eight regional locations.

Reforms to in-home aged care will start from 1 July 2024. Existing in-home aged care programs including the Commonwealth Home Support Programme will continue until this time. The Budget includes **\$23.1m** for research and consultation to deliver an equitable program. The Government will introduce price caps for administration and management charges and ban exit fees to make costs fairer to recipients.

Older First Nations peoples, those from diverse communities, older people living with dementia and older Australians in regional areas will benefit from **\$26.1m** of targeted funding for individual aged care homes.

Funding for the Disability Support for Older Australians (DSOA) Program will be extended through **\$53.5m**.

Rebuilding our health and aged care workforce

Repairing and rebuilding our health and aged care workforce, with a focus on meeting the needs of older Australians, First Nations people and people in rural and regional areas.

Investments in Medicare, general practice and First Nations Health will help ease pressure on overworked doctors, nurses and health professionals.

The Government is also committed to growing and strengthening the aged care workforce by supporting the case for better aged care pay at the Fair Work Commission and the commitment to fund the outcome of this case. Aged care homes will be required to have a registered nurse on site at all times and mandatory care time requirements will be lifted.

A **\$185.3m** workforce package will support more doctors and allied health professionals to work in regional and rural communities and improve treatment and care for patients.

There is **\$24.7m** to attract, support, and retain rural health professionals through the successful Innovative Models of Care program.

\$74.1m will make incentive payments of up to **\$10,500** available to GPs and rural generalists with advanced clinical skills to practice in rural and remote communities.

More health workers will be eligible for salary support through the Workforce Incentive Program thanks to a **\$29.4m** expansion.

Nurses and midwives will receive more support through the **\$25.2m** National Nurse and Midwife Health Service (NNHMS) which will provide free, confidential and independent advice, support, information, treatment and specialist referrals.

Twenty new Commonwealth-funded medical training places at James Cook University will help alleviate medical workforce shortages in North Queensland.

The John Flynn Prevocational Doctor Program will be expanded to more than 1,000 places by 2026 through a **\$5.6m** investment.

There is **\$11.7m** for new training posts for GPs, GPs in training and rural generalists to develop skills training in areas such as obstetrics, palliative care, paediatrics and mental health.

More GP and rural generalist registrars training in regional Australia can take advantage of Single Employer Model trials, allowing them to maintain the benefits of being employed by one body throughout their training.

The Budget will support additional skills and training to grow the skilled health workforce now and into the future. More nurses, pharmacists and other health workers will be a key priority of the 20,000 extra university places and 180,000 fee-free TAFE and vocational education places, announced by the Australian Government.

Cheaper medicines

Making medicines more affordable as cost-of-living pressures rise, by reducing the amount Australians pay for medicines on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

The **\$787.1m** invested in the PBS General Co-payment Reduction will see the cost of general scripts fall for the first time in the 75-year history of the PBS. From 1 January 2023, the maximum general co-payment will drop from \$42.50 to \$30.00, saving some patients hundreds of dollars a year.

Skin cancer patients will benefit from the drug cemiplimab (Libtayo®) being listed on the PBS schedule through funding of **\$343.5m**. The listing will benefit around 1,000 patients with metastatic or locally advanced cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma each year. Without this subsidy patients face costs of more than **\$144,000** for a single course of treatment.

Approximately 1,450 patients with advanced or metastatic gastro-oesophageal cancers will benefit from the listing extension of nivolumab (Opdivo®) on the PBS at a cost of **\$459.1m**. Without this listing, patients could pay over **\$92,000** per course of treatment.

For these drugs, eligible patients will pay a maximum of \$42.50 per script, reduced to \$30.00 from 1 January 2023, or just \$6.80 for concession card holders.

A **\$327.7m** investment will provide an additional 71,000 people with type 1 diabetes access to subsidised continuous glucose monitoring.

As we continue ongoing management of COVID-19, **\$22.8m** is also being invested to extend the listing of oral COVID-19 antiviral treatments on the PBS so those most at risk can access affordable treatment when they need it.

Key at-risk populations in the Australian community are being given prioritised access to Monkeypox (MPX) vaccines and treatments, through a joint **\$73.9m** investment with states and territory governments.

Funding Australia's green and gold decade

Ensuring the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games leave a lasting legacy for all Australians.

Initial funding of **\$3.2m** for a dedicated unit within the Department of Health and Aged Care to coordinate the Australian Government's role in preparations and the successful running of the 2032 Games.

An investment of **\$44.8m** will deliver on the Commonwealth's financial commitment to the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 – the largest women's sporting event in the world.

This Budget includes **\$9.4m** in funding to continue the National Sports Tribunal (NST) to ensure independent, timely and cost-effective dispute resolution for athletes, sporting bodies and support personnel.

A **\$15.1m** investment will ensure the Australian Institute of Sport Arena (AIS Arena) in Canberra is once again safe to host major sporting and cultural events.

The successful Sport4All (S4A) pilot project, including a focus on First Nations people living with disability, will be expanded to a nationwide program. A **\$10.3m** investment will help train an additional 80 inclusion coaches to support 500,000 Australians with disability, including approximately 53,000 First Nations people with disability, to participate in sport in the build up to the Games.

A **\$4.7m** extension to the Beach Safety Equipment Fund will help Surf Life Saving Australia to keep beachgoers safe through the purchase of critical rescue boards and boats, life jackets, all-terrain vehicles, defibrillators, first aid and medical supplies.

Strengthening First Nations health

Accelerating efforts to close the gap in health and wellbeing outcomes for First Nations peoples.

Seventeen critical First Nations health infrastructure projects across the country will be funded through a **\$164.3m** investment in modern, high-quality health services.

Up to 500 First Nations health workers will be trained through a **\$54.3m** investment in the First Nations Health Workers Traineeship Program.

Renal services will be boosted with **\$45m** for up to 30 four-chair dialysis units. A further **\$1.1m** will supply the Far West NSW region with two dialysis treatment buses.

An additional **\$13.5m** funding to National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) will help combat Rheumatic Heart Disease through better prevention, screening and treatment.

First Nations women and babies will benefit from **\$22.5m** to build a dedicated Birthing on Country Centre of Excellence at Waminda in Nowra, New South Wales.

The Government is delivering on its commitment to fund a second CareFlight Rescue Helicopter in the Northern Territory. First Nations people and others in remote and regional communities, will benefit from the **\$10.1m** to increase emergency response capability and better care for and transport sick and injured Territorians.

\$2.2m will support remote Indigenous community involvement in AFL in the Northern Territory.

Total value of packages



\$2.9b funded to Strengthening Medicare and rebuilding primary health care

\$2.6b funded to Cheaper Medicines

\$3.9b funded to Restoring dignity to aged care

\$314.5m funded to Strengthening First Nations Health

\$185.3m funded to Rebuilding our health and aged care workforce

\$89.7m funded to Funding Australia's green and gold decade