



MARK BUTLER MP
MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AGED CARE

MEDIA RELEASE

STRENGTHENING MEDICARE

The Australian Government's 2022-23 Budget begins the task of strengthening Medicare after a decade of cuts and neglect.

This is a Budget for the health of every Australian. Overall spending on health (\$104.1b), aged care (\$30.6b) and sport (\$633.5m) is \$135.3b – up 5.7 per cent on last year.

Strengthening Medicare

Our centrepiece investment to strengthen Medicare will address a decade of cuts and neglect in general practice and primary care, reaffirming this as the cornerstone of our health system and taking the pressure off overloaded hospitals.

A \$2.9 billion package will drive an innovative revamp of Australia's primary health care system. Medicare will be strengthened, reaffirming its integrity and intent as a cornerstone of the health system.

The Government will make it easier for Australians to see a doctor when they need it by establishing 50 Medicare Urgent Care Clinics that will help reduce the pressure on the hospital system. The Government will provide \$235m from 2022-23 to commence the rollout, including \$100m over 2 years from 2022-23 to co-develop and pilot innovative models with states and territories to improve care pathways and inform the urgent care program rollout. A new GP grants program will provide a much-needed boost to local GP practices and improve care (\$229.7m).

To support the best outcomes for Australia newborns, the Government will ensure Australia's Newborn Bloodspot Screening programs (NBS) world-leading status by increasing the number and consistency of conditions screened across the country (\$39m).

Women's health during and after pregnancy will be strengthened with updated pregnancy care clinical guidelines and new postnatal care guidelines (\$5.9m). The Budget invests in a new national network of perinatal mental health and wellbeing centres (\$26.2m) and families bereaved by stillbirth will get more support (\$13.9m).

Recognising the ongoing and growing need for mental health and suicide prevention supports and services, the Government will fund a number of initiatives including an expansion of the headspace network (\$23.5m).

National consultations will begin to explore the unique health issues and barriers to access care faced by LGBTIQ+ Australians (\$1.3m).

The Government will make climate change a national health priority by establishing a National Health Sustainability and Climate Unit and developing Australia's first National Health and Climate Strategy (\$3.4m).

Cheaper medicines

The Government is making medicines cheaper for Australian households. For the first time in its 75-year history, the maximum cost of general scripts under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) will fall. The maximum co-payment of \$42.50 will drop to \$30 (\$787.1m) from 1 January 2023.

Strengthening First Nations health

The Albanese Government will improve the health of First Nations peoples and take immediate action to support our commitment to the Uluru Statement from the Heart, by making real improvements in health outcomes (\$314.5m).

We will deliver improved infrastructure, including new and expanded First Nations health clinics in locations with high and growing First Nations populations (\$164.3m). The First Nations Health Workers Traineeship Program (\$54.3m), led by the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO), will train up to 500 First Nations health workers.

The Budget provides funding to target chronic diseases disproportionately affecting First Nations people. The Government will increase funding to combat rheumatic heart disease in high-risk communities (\$14.2m). Renal services will be improved with funding (\$45 million) for up to 30 four-chair dialysis units in up to 30 sites.

The Government will build a dedicated Birthing on Country Centre of Excellence in New South Wales to provide culturally safe care and wrap-around support services for First Nations families (\$22.5m). We know this is essential to improve long term health and development outcomes for First Nations peoples.

Rebuilding our healthcare workforce

This Budget will address workforce shortages particularly beyond our capital cities, making new investments in preventive health and improving mental health support.

The \$185.3 million Rural Workforce package will attract, support and retain more doctors and allied health professionals into regional and rural communities, including new funding for the successful Innovative Models of Care program (\$24.7m).

Incentive payments of up to \$10,500 will be available to GPs and rural generalists with advanced clinical skills to practice in rural and remote communities (\$74.1m). More health workers will be eligible for salary support through the Workforce Incentive Program (\$29.4m).

There is \$5.6 million to expand the John Flynn Prevocational Doctor Program to more than 1,000 placements in rural Australia per year by 2026. Rural health in

Northern Queensland will get a boost, with 20 new Commonwealth-funded medical training places at the James Cook University (\$13.2m).

Quotes attributable to Mark Butler, Minister for Health and Aged Care:

“The Albanese Government will strengthen Medicare and put the health of Australians first.”

“The Albanese Government is addressing cost of living pressures that affect Australians every day, helping them afford essential health care and cutting the cost of medicines.”

“With this Budget, we start to repair Medicare and grow our health workforce after a decade of Coalition cuts and neglect.”

TUESDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2022



MARK BUTLER MP
MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AGED CARE

ANIKA WELLS MP
MINISTER FOR AGED CARE
MINISTER FOR SPORT

RESTORING DIGNITY TO AGED CARE

Australia's aged care sector has been neglected for too long. This Budget takes the first steps to deliver on reforms to ensure older Australians in care are treated with the respect they deserve with a \$3.9 billion package of reforms.

- The Albanese Government will mandate the number of care minutes residents receive – starting with 200 care minutes including 40 nursing minutes from 1 October 2023, and 215 care minutes including 44 nursing minutes from 1 October 2024. Aged care homes will receive more funding to deliver on our promise to provide more care minutes to residents. In addition, from 1 July 2023 all aged care homes must have a registered nurse on site 24/7. These commitments will be met with a combined investment of \$2.5 billion.
- Aged care residents will also have access to better food, with the Maggie Beer Foundation funded to educate and train staff to meet new nutritional standards (\$5m).
- Older people in care will experience a strengthened and professional aged care workforce. A new national registration scheme for personal care workers will include ongoing training and English proficiency (\$3.6m). Continuity of care will also be improved by requiring providers to preference direct employment.
- Home care administration and management fees will be capped and exit fees will be abolished – ensuring the amount of funds going towards direct care is maximised. This, in addition to newly published data on what aged care providers spend their funding on, will better protect older Australians from neglect, rorts and rip-offs.
- Initiatives to progress in-home aged care reforms will also be funded (\$23.1m), including additional consultation, a large scale trial of a new assessment tool, and establishment of a Service List Advisory Body. The Commonwealth Home Support Programme will be extended to the support at home program commencement (30 June 2024), to provide continuity for over 800,000 older people who access the program.

- Individual homes will receive funding to provide better support to older First Nations people, those from diverse communities and those living in regional areas (\$26.1m).
- A dedicated Aged Care Complaints Commissioner will ensure complaints are properly and thoroughly dealt with (\$9.9m). A new independent Inspector-General of Aged Care will target systemic issues to improve outcomes for older Australians (\$38.7m).
- The Strengthening Regional Stewardship measure (\$68.5m) will expand the department's local presence to help improve regional aged care services, including in eight new regional locations.
- Funding will be provided to modernise aged care ICT to enable reform and to reduce the administrative burden for the more than 2,000 providers that interact with the Government's aged care systems (\$312.6m). Funds will also be provided to sustain the existing My Aged Care system operations.
- Our biggest priority in aged care is increasing the workforce because nine years of neglect has left the sector in crisis. In August the Government made a submission to the Fair Work Commission for a needed pay rise for aged care workers. A decision is expected this summer. The Government will provide funding to support any increases to award wages resulting from the FWC decision and it will impact up to 300,000 workers.

These measures directly address Royal Commission recommendations and the neglect that we saw under the former Coalition Government.

Quotes attributable to Minister Butler:

"The Government will deliver aged care reform that puts people first and genuinely responds to their needs."

"Older Australians deserve respect and dignity in aged care and this Budget takes the first steps to deliver the reforms that they so badly need."

Quotes attributable to Minister Wells:

"The Government embraces both the spirit and intent of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, and through this Budget we are taking action."

"The 2022-23 Budget steers a course for the aged care sector towards a system that is focused on quality care."

"Our investments help restore safety, dignity and respect of older Australians."

TUESDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2022

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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 LGBTQI+ 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



STRENGTHENING MEDICARE AND REBUILDING PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

Summary of package

The 2022–23 October Budget is the first step to delivering on the Australian Government's commitment to strengthen Medicare and help boost general practice through a \$2.9 billion investment so all Australians can expect affordable, prompt and world-class medical care.

The investment in this Budget will start to rebuild the nation's primary health care system, taking pressure off our hospitals and increasing affordability and access to care.

The Australian Government will address the crisis in primary care, the cornerstone of the Australian health system. Across Australia and through every stage of life, access to general practitioners, nurses, pharmacists and allied health professionals is central to keeping Australians healthy.

The establishment of 50 Medicare Urgent Care Clinics, that are available after-hours, will help Australians access care when and where they need it while reducing pressure on the hospital system. The new Strengthening Medicare GP Grants Program will provide a much-needed boost to local GP practices and improve care.

This Budget invests in critical health infrastructure, including new Comprehensive Cancer Centres to improve patient outcomes. There is also funding for ongoing mental health and suicide prevention supports, including for young Australians.

The Government is investing more in telehealth, the health of women and families, support for LGBTQI+ Australians, as well as making important new investments in preventive health to support Australians at all stages of life.

Total value of package

**\$2.9
billion**

\$229.7m

towards Strengthening Medicare
GP grants program

\$235m

towards 50
Medicare Urgent Care Clinics

\$452m

towards new cancer centres

Who benefits

All Australians, particularly the most disadvantaged, will benefit from access to affordable and world class medical care. No matter where they live, it will be easier for Australians to see a doctor or nurse. The \$2.9 billion commitment in this Budget signals the Government's commitment to deliver urgent investment to general practice while the Strengthening Medicare Taskforce develops recommendations on priority investments through our commitment to the \$750 million Strengthening Medicare Fund. By protecting and strengthening Medicare we ensure no one is left behind.

The Government will provide \$235 million to commence the roll out of 50 Medicare Urgent Care Clinics, including \$100 million to co-develop and pilot innovative models with states and territories to improve care pathways and inform program roll out. The new models of care will make it easier for Australians to see a healthcare professional when they have an urgent, but not life-threatening, need for care. In 2020–21, 47 per cent of presentations to emergency departments were classified as semi-urgent or non-urgent.

Nine out of 10 Australians see a general practitioner at least once a year, and the \$229.7 million investment through the 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, equipment and minor capital works to improve patient access. This funding also recognises the additional pressures placed on GPs through the COVID-19 pandemic.

There will be \$8.6 million 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 \$638.8 million in critical health infrastructure and ensure access to essential services.



**\$638.8
million** for critical
health
infrastructure

The Budget includes measures to improve the health of Australian women and families. \$26.2 million will fund a new national network of perinatal mental health and wellbeing centres. \$19.8 million will strengthen women's health during and after pregnancy, including support for families bereaved by stillbirth. Australia's Newborn Bloodspot Screening (NBS) programs will be restored to world-leading status through \$39 million to increase the number and consistency of conditions screened across the country.

Recognising the ongoing and growing need for mental health and suicide prevention supports and services, the Government is investing \$114 million in a number of initiatives. Funding includes \$23.5 million for an expansion of the headspace network to better support the approximately 630,000 young Australians with mild to moderate mental illness.

This Budget continues to build on the potential of telehealth with \$47.7 million to restore a loading to support bulk billed Medicare online psychiatry consultations for rural and regional patients. An additional \$3 million will support patients with rare and complex diseases to better navigate the health system through telehealth nurses.

Cancer patients and their families, medical professionals, and researchers will benefit from \$452 million in this Budget to deliver 2 new Comprehensive Cancer Centres. \$14.8 million will establish a Melanoma Nurses Program across Australia to help patients navigate the health system, access services and make informed decisions about their treatment.

The Government is investing \$1.3 million to improve health outcomes for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex (LGBTQI+) people by addressing their unique health needs and experiences. Qlife will boost its volunteer peer support workforce with \$400,000 in funding.

The Government will make climate change a national health priority. A \$3.4 million investment in the Budget will establish a National Health Sustainability and Climate Unit and develop Australia's first National Health and Climate Strategy.

**\$114
million**

to support mental
health and
suicide prevention
measures



Funding details

- Commence roll out of 50 Medicare Urgent Care Clinics – \$235 million over 4 years from 2022–2023.
- Strengthening Medicare GP Grants Program – \$229.7 million over 2 years from 2022–2023.
- MBS – New and Amended Listings – \$8.6 million over 4 years from 2022–2023.
- Re-opening the Minor Accident and Illness Centre at Morayfield Health Hub – \$4.4 million over 2 years from 2022–2023.
- Hunter GP Access After Hours Service – \$17.5 million over 4 years from 2022–23.
- Expansion of Flinders Medical Centre – \$200 million over 6 years from 2022–2023.
- Queanbeyan Respite Care Facility – \$1.1 million in 2022–2023.
- Child Development Unit at Campbelltown – \$4 million in 2022–2023.
- New Bentley Hospital Surgicentre – \$75 million over 5 years from 2023–24.
- Brighton Walk-In After Hours Health Centre – \$1.6 million in 2022–2023.
- Comprehensive Cancer Centres in Queensland and South Australia – \$452 million over 6 years from 2022–2023.
- National Melanoma Nurse Network – \$14.8 million over 4 years from 2022–2023.
- Rare Disease Telehealth Nurse Program – \$3 million over 3 years from 2022–2023.
- Restoring Loading to Regional Psychiatry Telehealth Service – \$47.7m over 4 years from 2022–2023.
- Expanding and Strengthening the headspace Network – \$23.5 million over 5 years from 2022–2023.
- MATES in Manufacturing Program – \$750,000 over 3 years from 2022–2023.
- National Rollout of the Stay Afloat Program – \$1.6 million over 2 years from 2022–2023.
- Strengthening Women's Health during pregnancy – \$19.8 million over 3 years from 2022–2023.
- National Network of Perinatal Mental Health Centres – \$26.2 million over 4 years from 2022–2023.
- National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health – \$23.9 million over 4 years from 2022–2023.
- Upgrading the World Wellness Group Multicultural Health Clinic – \$139,000 in 2022–2023.
- Supporting the Health and Wellbeing of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex (LGBTQI+) people – \$1.3 million over 2 years from 2022–2023.
- Renewing Australia's efforts to end the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) – \$5.9 million over 4 years from 2022–2023.
- World-class Newborn Bloodspot Screening Program – \$39 million over 4 years from 2022–2023.
- Better Care for Australian Children with Hearing Loss – \$6.5 million over 3 years from 2022–2023.
- Establishing a National Health Sustainability and Climate Unit – \$3.4 million over 4 years from 2022–2023.
- Establish an Australian Centre for Disease Control – Preparatory work – \$3.2 million in 2022–23.



All information in this publication is correct as at October 2022

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RESTORING DIGNITY TO AGED CARE

Summary of package

The 2022–23 October Budget funds the Australian Government's commitment to improve safety, dignity, quality and humanity in the aged care sector.

A \$3.9 billion investment in this budget will help implement reforms that meet the needs of aged care recipients.

Older Australians, their families, and carers deserve an aged care system that delivers safe and high quality care.

The Government's aged care reforms in this Budget respond directly to 23 recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.

The Government is investing \$2.5 billion in new legislated requirements for residential aged care homes to have a Registered Nurse onsite 24 hours a day, seven days a week and more care minutes.

The Budget will help build a qualified aged care workforce. It will improve food standards for residents and introduce tougher penalties and transparency measures to protect recipients of aged care from abuse, neglect and exploitation.

The Government is also improving services for older First Nations peoples, and older people from diverse communities, regional areas and older people living with dementia.

This support will increase access to culturally safe care that acknowledges the diverse needs of older Australians.

Total value of package

**\$3.9
billion**

\$2.5b

towards 24/7 nurses and
increased care minutes

\$48.6m

towards establishing Aged Care
Complaints Commissioner and the
Inspector-General of Aged Care

\$312.6m

towards improved information
and communication technology
Aged Care platforms

Who benefits

From 1 July 2023, aged care residents will benefit from the requirement for aged care homes to have a registered nurse on site at all times.

Mandatory care time requirements in residential aged care will also be lifted starting with 200 care minutes including 40 nursing minutes from 1 October 2023, and 215 care minutes including 44 nursing minutes from 1 October 2024. The Budget includes \$2.5 billion to fund these changes.

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

The Budget includes \$312.6 million to improve Aged Care ICT platforms, enabling better connectivity and streamlined processes for aged care providers, and up-to-date aged care service information for older Australians through My Aged Care.

Older Australians will receive better care from a strengthened, professional aged care workforce that is valued. An investment of \$3.6 million will establish a new national registration scheme for personal care workers.

Older Australians living in an aged care home will receive better food and nutrition. As part of a \$5 million investment, the Maggie Beer Foundation will help train aged care staff on how to source, prepare and serve more nutritious and appetising food.

Tougher penalties and transparency measures will protect aged care recipients and residents from abuse, neglect and rip-offs.

The Budget includes \$9.9 million to establish an Aged Care Complaints Commissioner to ensure complaints are properly and thoroughly dealt with.

\$38.7 million will establish an Inspector-General of Aged Care to target systemic issues, provide independent oversight of the aged care system and make recommendations directly to Government.

The \$68.5 million 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.



For people who wish to be independent and remain living in their own home, reforms to in-home aged care will start from 1 July 2024. Existing in-home aged care programs will continue until this time. This includes a twelve month extension to the Commonwealth Home Support Programme. The Budget includes \$23.1 million for research and consultation to deliver an equitable program. In the meantime, 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 \$26.1 million of targeted funding for individual aged care homes which cater for these groups.

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

**\$26.1
million**

to support
homes providing
care for First
Nations people
from diverse
communities and
regional areas



Funding details

- 24/7 nurses and 215 care minutes – \$2.5 billion over 4 years.
- AN-ACC Transition Fund – \$43.8 million over 3 years.
- Research and consultation for reforms to in-home aged care – \$23.1 million over 1 year.
- Capping administration and management prices for Home Care Packages program will deliver higher value for money.
- Aged Care Complaints Commissioner – \$9.9 million over 2 years.
- Inspector-General of Aged Care – \$38.7 million over 4 years.
- Establish a registration scheme for personal care workers – \$3.6 million over 1 year.
- Better food for Aged Care residents – \$5 million over 3 years.
- Strengthening Regional Stewardship of Aged Care – \$68.5 million for 4 years.
- Aged Care ICT to Enable Reform: My Aged Care and Future ICT Platform – \$312.6 million over 4 years.
- Funding for Individual Facilities – \$26.1 million over 4 years.
- Disability Support for Older Australians (DSOA) Program – \$53.5 million until December 2023.



All information in this publication is correct as at October 2022

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REBUILDING OUR HEALTH AND AGED CARE WORKFORCE

Summary of package

The Australian Government is beginning to repair and rebuild our overworked and under pressure health and aged care workforce, committing \$185.3 million in the 2022–23 October Budget to help ease the crisis and address critical shortages.

Through investments in this Budget the Government will focus on meeting the needs of older Australians, First Nations people and those living in rural and regional areas.

A workforce package will support more doctors, nurses and allied health professionals to work in regional and rural communities and improve treatment and care for patients. There is new funding to attract, support, and retain rural health professionals.

This Budget invests in additional training in obstetrics, palliative care, paediatrics and mental health skills for rural generalists and general practitioners (GPs) delivering extended care for their rural and remote communities. There is also additional support for nurses and midwives.

These measures complement the Government's investments in Medicare Urgent Care Clinics and Strengthening Medicare GP Grants, which will take financial and workload pressures off GPs and hospital emergency departments. They are in addition to our significant investment in this Budget to grow and strengthen the aged care workforce and increase the number of First Nations 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.

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.

Total value of package

**\$185.3
million**

\$103.4m

towards the Workforce
Incentive programs

\$25.2m

towards additional support
for nurses and midwives

\$27.9m

towards improved skills
and training

The investments in the health workforce in this Budget will help address the inequities in health outcomes between First Nations people and non-Indigenous Australians, and between people living in rural, regional and remote areas and those in our capital cities.

This Budget begins the difficult task of rebuilding and retaining Australia's health and care workforce. The Government is committed to making further investments to ease the pressure on existing health workers, and improve access to essential health care for all Australians.

Who benefits

Funding of \$2.5 billion will see aged care residents benefit from the requirement for aged care homes to have a registered nurse on site at all times and an increase in care minutes. The Government will support aged care providers to adjust to the new Australian National Aged Care Classification funding model, implement increased care minutes and deliver enhanced reporting.

Australians living in rural and regional areas will benefit from a \$185.3 million workforce package that will support more doctors, nurses and allied health professionals to work in regional and rural communities and improve treatment and care for patients.

There is \$24.7 million in funding to attract, support, and retain rural health professionals through the successful Innovative Models of Care program. The program supports health care professionals and communities to implement sustainable and comprehensive solutions tailored to their unique local health care needs.

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

Funding of \$74.1 million will provide incentive payments of up to \$10,500 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 \$29.4 million expansion in this Budget. This will allow practices to employ a greater range of health workers as part of high quality multidisciplinary teams.

Nurses and midwives will also receive more support through the \$25.2 million National Nurse and Midwife Health Service (NNHMS). The NNHMS will provide free, confidential and independent advice, support, information, treatment and specialist referrals for nurses, midwives and undergraduate nursing and midwifery students.



The Government is establishing 20 new Commonwealth-funded medical training places at the James Cook University rural medical training campus in Cairns. This \$13.2 million investment is part of a long-term approach to alleviate medical workforce shortages in the North Queensland.

The John Flynn Prevocational Doctor Program, which commences in 2023, will be expanded to 1,000 places by 2026 through an additional \$5.6 million investment. The program offers more junior doctors the opportunity to experience rural primary care practice at an early stage of their career, and helps create end to end rural medical training pathways for the next generation of regional doctors.

The number of highly skilled rural GPs and rural generalists will be boosted thanks to \$11.7 million for 15 new advanced skills training posts. Training will focus on obstetrics, anaesthetics, surgery and emergency care, as well as mental health, palliative care, and paediatrics.

Growing and strengthening Aged Care Workforce by **supporting the case for better pay**



Funding details

- Expanded Innovative Models of Care Program – \$24.7 million over 4 years from 2022–2023.
- Additional Workforce Incentives for GPs – \$74.1 million over 4 years from 2022–2023.
- Improved Access to Nurses and Allied Health – \$29.4 million over 4 years from 2022–2023.
- Single Employer Models for Rural General Practice Trainees – \$800,000 over 4 years from 2022–2023.
- Expansion of the John Flynn Prevocational Doctor Program – \$5.6 million.
- Boost for Rural Health in Northern Queensland – James Cook University – \$13.2 million over 3 years from 2023–24.
- Advanced Skills Training Posts for Rural Generalists and GPs – \$11.7 million over 5 years from 2023–24.
- National Nurse and Midwife Health Service – \$25.2 million over 5 years from 2022–2023.
- 24/7 nurses and 215 care minutes – \$2.5 billion over 4 years from 2022–23.



All information in this publication is correct as at October 2022

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CHEAPER MEDICINES

Summary of package

The Australian Government will make medicines cheaper and ease cost-of-living pressures for Australians. In the 2022–23 October Budget the Government is investing \$2.6 billion to deliver on that commitment.

The Government will deliver cheaper medicines by legislating to reduce the amount Australians pay for medicines on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

For the first time in its 75-year history, the maximum cost of general scripts under the PBS will fall. A \$787.1 million investment will cut the cost of general scripts by 29 per cent, with the maximum cost to drop by \$12.50 to just \$30.00. This means that someone taking one medication a month could save as much as \$150 every year, or a family with 2 or 3 medications saving as much as \$300–\$450 a year.

In this Budget, vitally important cancer medicines such as cemiplimab (Libtayo®) and nivolumab (Opdivo®) are being listed and expanded on the PBS. Listing these treatments improves the lives of individuals and their families and brings down the cost for more patients, in some cases by more than a hundred thousand dollars per treatment course.

The Government continues to invest in vaccines and treatments for COVID-19 and Monkeypox to ensure they are accessible, affordable and effective in helping to protect all Australians, especially those most at risk.



Total value of package

**\$2.6
billion**

\$787.1m

towards reducing
PBS co-payments

\$1.4b

towards new
PBS listings

\$96.7m

towards COVID and
MPX treatments

Who benefits

A trip to the pharmacy will be cheaper for millions of Australians and will result in out of pocket savings of around \$190 million each year for patients thanks to the \$787.1 million in this Budget for the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) General Co-payment Reduction. From 1 January 2023, many Australians will pay up to 29 per cent less for PBS scripts, with the maximum general co-payment dropping 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 \$343.5 million. The listing will benefit around 1,000 patients with metastatic or locally advanced cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma each year. Without this subsidy patients face cost 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 \$459.1 million. Without this listing, patients could pay over \$92,000 per course of treatment.

Instead, 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.

As we continue ongoing management of COVID-19, \$22.8 million 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 \$73.9 million investment with states and territory governments.

Maximum general PBS
co-payments **down 29%**
saving Australians around
\$190m per year on Medicare



Funding details

- Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) General Co-payment Reduction – \$787.1 million over 4 years from 2022–2023.
- Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) new and amended listings – July to October 2022 – \$635.9 million over 4 years from 2022–2023.
- Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listing of cemiplimab (Libtayo®) – \$343.5 million over 4 years from 2022–2023.
- Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) extended listing of nivolumab (Opdivo®) – \$459.1 million over 4 years from 2022–2023.
- Listing avalglugosidase alfa (Nexviazyme®) on the Life Saving Drugs Program (LSDP) \$11.0 million save over 4 years from 2022–2023.
- Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) extended listing for Oral COVID-19 Treatments – \$22.8 million over 2 years from 2022–2023.
- Additional Purchases of Monkeypox Vaccines and Treatments – \$73.9 million in 2022–2023.
- Flash Glucose Monitoring and Continuous Glucose Monitoring devices for Australians with Type 1 Diabetes – \$327.7 million over 4 years from 2022–2023.
- Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme Data Distribution Project – \$13.2 million over 4 years from 2022–2023.



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FUNDING AUSTRALIA'S GREEN AND GOLD DECADE

Summary of package

The 2022–23 October Budget continues the Government's commitment to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games (Games), ensuring they leave a lasting legacy for all Australians.

The Games are the largest and prestigious sporting event to be hosted in Australia since the Sydney 2000 Games and will be the culmination of the green and gold decade of major sporting events.

The Government is advancing discussions with Queensland on support for the Games, to ensure the nation can take advantage of the significant social, sporting, and economic benefits that come with hosting a large-scale international event.

The Government will continue the National Sports Tribunal (NST) as an ongoing dispute resolution entity for Australian sport.

The Government will also meet its commitment to upgrade and reopen the Australian Institute of Sport Arena to support sports, community events, and concerts.

Funding in this Budget includes support for the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup, being co-hosted with New Zealand.

As the largest women's sporting event in the world, the FIFA Women's World Cup will encourage more girls and women to participate, volunteer and work in sport. With Australia also hosting women's world cups in basketball, netball and rugby, the opportunities are growing every day.

Total value of package

**\$89.7
million**

\$44.8m

towards FIFA Women's
World Cup in 2023

\$15.1m

towards upgrades
to the AIS Arena

\$10.3m

towards expanding
Sport4All pilot program

\$9.4m

to continue the
National Sports Tribunal

\$4.7m

towards the
Beach Safety Equipment Fund

Who benefits

All Australians will benefit from the Government's investment in the green and gold decade. The Games will strengthen social connections, increase participation in sport, improve health outcomes for all Australians, support local economies, and bring Australians together.

To help ensure the 2032 Games are successful, initial funding of \$3.2 million will establish and maintain a dedicated unit within the Department of Health and Aged Care's Office for Sport. The unit will coordinate the Australian Government's role in preparations and the successful running of the Games.

With the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 now less than a year away, this Budget includes \$44.8 million to deliver on the Commonwealth's financial commitment to what is the largest women's sporting event in the world.

The event will drive social and cultural change through increased physical activity, social inclusion, gender equality and engagement with First Nations, and disability communities. This investment also includes legacy funding to support more girls and boys from migrant communities who are inspired to play football and engage more actively in their local communities.

This Budget includes \$9.4 million 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. The NST is an important mechanism for hearing disputes such as appeals on eligibility and selection decisions for Australian sporting teams, and anti-doping rule violations, as part of the green and gold decade.

A \$15.1 million 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 funding will see the replacement of stadium seating, upgraded fire warning systems, lighting, and mechanical services. The upgrades, including the addition of air conditioning will improve the venue for athletes, support staff and spectators.

The successful Sport4All (S4A) pilot project, including a focus on First Nations people living with disability, will be expanded to a nationwide program through a \$10.3 million investment. The expansion will 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 \$4.7 million 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.



Funding details

- Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games – \$3.2 million over 4 years from 2022–2023.
- FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 – \$44.8 million over 2 years from 2022–2023.
- Continuation of the National Sports Tribunal – \$9.4 million over 4 years from 2022–2023.
- Remediation of AIS Arena – \$15.1 million over 4 years from 2022–2023.
- Sport4All First Nations Program Expansion – \$10.3 million over 4 years from 2022–2023.
- Beach Safety Equipment Fund – \$4.7 million over 3 years from 2022–2023.
- AFL in the Northern Territory – \$2.2 million over 3 years from 2022–23.

Establishment of a team to **support delivery of the 2032 Games**

Continued funding for the **National Sports Tribunal**



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STRENGTHENING FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Summary of package

The Australian Government is accelerating efforts to close the gap in health and wellbeing outcomes for First Nations peoples.

The Government is taking immediate action to improve access to culturally safe services by investing \$314.5 million in the 2022–23 October Budget, to expand Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services nationwide.

This Budget represents a fundamental change in the delivery of First Nations health. It will grow the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS) sector and First Nations health workforce, including in regional, rural and remote areas of Australia. First Nations peoples will continue to lead health system reforms across primary health, mental health, chronic disease management, workforce and aged care.

The Budget will improve access and care for First Nations peoples in high need locations through improved infrastructure. Significant funding will directly target key chronic diseases that disproportionately affect First Nations peoples. Additionally, there is funding for improved culturally safe birthing.

This Budget will strengthen the First Nations health sector, improve access and care in remote communities, create jobs and save lives.

Total value of package

**\$314.5
million**

\$164.3m

towards First Nations health
infrastructure projects

\$54.3m

towards training up to 500
First Nations health workers

\$45m

towards boosting renal services and
water infrastructure projects

Who benefits

The 2022–23 October Budget includes \$164.3 million to deliver 17 critical First Nations health infrastructure projects across the country. This is an investment in modern, high-quality health clinics in areas of large and growing First Nations populations, as well as carefully targeted smaller investments to build capacity to improve chronic disease treatment and rehabilitation.

Up to 500 First Nations health workers will be trained through a \$54.3 million investment in the First Nations Health Workers Traineeship Program, led by the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO). Trainees will undertake Certificate III or IV accredited training as First Nations health workers or practitioners. Trainees will receive on-the-job experience and mentoring in local ACCHS.

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 \$10.1 million to increase emergency response capability and better care for and transport sick and injured Territorians.

Chronic kidney disease is the leading cause of hospitalisation for First Nations peoples, at 11 times the rate of non-Indigenous Australians. The Budget includes significant funding for life-saving dialysis treatments, including:

- \$45 million to boost renal services by funding up to 30 four-chair dialysis units to allow more people to receive culturally safe care closer to home and for many people on country. Further, this may include dialysis-related small scale water infrastructure projects to ensure the quality of water supplied to dialysis units.
- \$1.1 million to supply the Far West NSW region with two dialysis treatment buses to service Wilcannia, White Cliffs and Menindee, allowing end stage kidney disease patients in the region to access dialysis treatment without the need to travel significant distances, saving patients money and time.



The Australian Government is increasing funding to NACCHO to help combat Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD), including:

- \$12.0 million to increase service delivery in high-risk communities, allowing more people to access prevention and treatment programs in a culturally safe manner.
- \$1.5 million to improve detection of RHD and increase screening rates through the purchase of portable echo-cardiogram machines and associated training.

First Nations women and babies will benefit from \$22.5 million to build a dedicated Birthing on Country Centre of Excellence at Waminda in Nowra, New South Wales. The Birthing Centre – to open in 2025–26 – will provide culturally safe care and wrap around support services for First Nations families during pregnancy, birth and beyond.

A new birthing on Country Centre of Excellence for First Nations women and babies



Funding details

- First Nations Health Infrastructure – \$164.3 million over 4 years from 2022–2023 including:
 1. Health Facility in Palmerston for Danila Dilba Health Service – \$11.6 million
 2. Hydrotherapy facilities in Orange for Orange Aboriginal Medical Service – \$4 million
 3. New build clinic in Ceduna for Yadu Health – \$13.4 million
 4. Clinic renovation and mobile Aboriginal health services in northern Melbourne for Victorian Aboriginal Health Service – \$2.6 million
 5. New clinic to improve Ipswich health and family infrastructure for Kambu Health – \$2.5 million
 6. New build clinic in Bunbury for South West Aboriginal Medical Service – \$18.3 million
 7. Two new clinics and renovation of existing health infrastructure in Central Australia for Central Australian Aboriginal Congress – \$19 million
 8. New clinic in Geelong for Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative – \$15.6 million
 9. Clinic renovation in Mardi for Yerin Eleanor Duncan Aboriginal Health Services – \$500,000
 10. Clinic expansion in Goodna for Institute for Urban Indigenous Health – \$3.3 million
 11. New clinic in Midland for Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service – \$4.7 million
 12. Expanded clinic and new dongas on North Stradbroke Island for Yulu-Burri-Ba Aboriginal Corporation – \$1.9 million
 13. Building purchase and fit out of new health infrastructure in Frankston for First Peoples' Health and Wellbeing – \$7.6 million
 14. Aboriginal and Multicultural Health Centre in Queenstown for Rural Health West – \$1.4 million
 15. Solar Pilot Project for four Aboriginal Health Services in Western Australia – \$2.9 million
 16. New Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Hub in Dakabin for Institute of Urban Indigenous Health – \$30.2 million
 17. Facilities fit out in Melbourne for Hands on Health – \$200,000.
- First Nations Health Worker Traineeship Program – \$54.3 million over 5 years from 2022–2023.
- Careflight rescue Helicopter – \$10.1 million in 2022–23.
- Strengthening First Nations Health: Rheumatic Heart Disease – \$13.5 million over 3 years from 2022–2023.
- Better Renal Services for First Nations Peoples – \$45 million over 4 years from 2022–2023.
- Improving Renal and Cardiac Care at Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation and Redfern Aboriginal Medical Service – \$800,000 in 2022–2023.
- Dialysis Treatment Buses for Far West New South Wales – \$1.1 million in 2022–2023.
- Waminda Birthing on Country Centre of Excellence – \$22.5 million over 3 years from 2022–2023.



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