



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.



All information in this publication is correct as at October 2022

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