



Guaranteeing Medicare – supporting doctors

The Government is investing \$926 million to support Australia's doctors in their important role keeping people healthy and out of hospital, and managing what can be challenging chronic conditions for patients. This is in addition to the Government's \$318 million to support doctors in the 2018–19 MYEFO. A new funding and service model supporting care coordination and more flexible models of care for older Australians (\$448.5 million); expanded, quality focused incentive payments for General Practices (\$201.5 million); a national end-to-end training program for rural generalists (\$62.2 million); and increased patient rebates for 176 GP services from 1 July 2019 (\$187.2 million) provided in this Budget. This builds on MYEFO initiatives that included increased payments to GPs to visit aged care homes, greater access to a GP after hours, and telehealth for regional Australia.

The additional investment supports GPs and General Practice to deliver more flexible models of care for patients, initially focusing on Australians over 70 years. They can voluntarily enter into a new type of relationship with their GP and receive more personalised, consistent and coordinated care, including more digital services, patient follow-up and self-management. The expanded Practice Incentives Program Quality Improvement Incentive payment supports practices in continuous quality improvement in patient outcomes and the delivery of best practice care. The Aged Care Access Incentive will be continued. The National Rural Generalist Pathway will ensure rural generalists – country doctors with broad skills who provide GP, emergency and specialist care in hospitals and the community – are appropriately trained, remunerated and resourced, and also formally recognised by the Medical Board of Australia.

Why is this important?

The Government is committed to supporting Australia's doctors to deliver improved access and outcomes for patients when and where they need it. More than half Australians over 70 have two or more common chronic illnesses like asthma, cancer, back pain and diabetes, which will benefit from targeted care.

Who will benefit?

All Australians will benefit from better services and access to primary health care.

How much will this cost?

This will cost \$926 million from 2018–19 to 2022–23.