



Improving Access to Medicines – National Medical Stockpile – new model of operations

The Government will improve the operation of the National Medical Stockpile to ensure Australia is well prepared for a national public health emergency. New arrangements will be implemented, including the distribution of the Stockpile's inventory around several locations across the country, and improved arrangements around storage, maintenance and transportation of the specialist medicines in the Stockpile.

Why is this important?

The National Medical Stockpile holds the specialist medicines required to respond to national public health emergencies such as influenza pandemics and chemical, biological or radiological events.

We need to have the right systems and arrangements in place to get the correct quantities of medicines from the Stockpile to wherever they are needed, on time, while making sure they are of the right standard and quality. It's critical that we are ready with the right medicines to protect Australians.

Who will benefit?

Improving how the Stockpile operates will benefit all Australians who require immediate and potentially life-saving medicines and treatment that only the Stockpile can supply in an emergency.

How much will this cost?

This will cost \$17.1 million from 2019–20 to 2022–23.