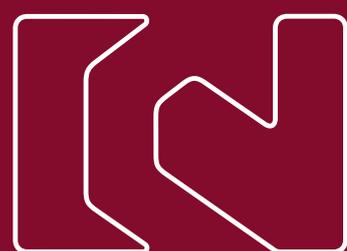


# 2025-2026 Federal Budget Summary



FOR MEDICAL  
PROFESSIONALS



## **TOP 15 BUDGET MEASURES FOR MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS**

### **1. STRENGTHENING MEDICARE INCLUDING BULK BILLING**

The Government will provide additional funding of \$8.4 billion over five years from 2024–25 (and \$2.5 billion per year ongoing) to increase access to bulk billing, including:

- \$7.9 billion over four years from 2025–26 (and \$2.4 billion per year ongoing) to expand eligibility for bulk billing incentives to all Australians and introduce the new Bulk Billing Practice Incentive Program for general practices if they bulk bill every visit under Medicare. This is the largest single investment in the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) to increase access to bulk billing.
- \$256.2 million over four years from 2025–26 (and \$82.1 million per year ongoing) to introduce new and amend existing items on the MBS.
- \$228.7 million in 2025–26 to continue modernising My Health Record and support the digital health reform agenda.

### **2. STRENGTHENING MEDICARE – EXPANDING MEDICARE URGENT CARE CLINICS**

The Government will provide \$657.9 million over three years from 2025–26 to expand the Medicare Urgent Care Clinics Program. This will include an additional 50 Medicare Urgent Care Clinics across Australia, which will take the total number of Medicare Urgent Care Clinics to 137.

### **3. STRENGTHENING MEDICARE – HEALTH WORKFORCE**

The Government will provide \$662.6 million over five years from 2024–25 (and \$230.9 million per year ongoing) to continue to strengthen and support Australia’s health workforce. Funding includes:

- \$606.3 million over four years from 2025–26 (and \$226.3 million per year ongoing) to deliver more Australian doctors and nurses. Funding includes:
  - \$265.4 million over four years from 2025–26 (and \$94.8 million per year ongoing) to expand General Practitioner (GP) training through the Australian General Practice Training Program and the Remote Vocational Training Scheme to deliver 200 new GP training places each year from 2026, increasing to 400 from 2028.
  - \$248.7 million over four years from 2025–26 (and \$83.6 million per year ongoing) for salary incentives for junior doctors to specialise in general practice, and to provide paid parental leave and study leave for trainee GPs.

## **TOP 15 BUDGET MEASURES FOR MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS**

### **4. CHEAPER MEDICINES**

The Government will provide \$784.6 million over four years from 2025–26 (and \$236.4 million per year ongoing) to lower the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) general patient co-payment from \$31.60 to \$25.00 on 1 January 2026.

### **5. STRENGTHENING MEDICARE – WOMEN’S HEALTH**

The Government will provide \$240.4 million over five years from 2024–25 (and \$42.3 million per year ongoing) to support women’s health. Funding includes:

- \$134.3 million over four years from 2025–26 (and \$35.3 million per year ongoing) to increase the schedule fee for four long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) items on the MBS, and to incentivise bulk billing through the creation of an MBS item claimable when a provider bulk bills a LARC insertion or removal service.
- \$26.3 million over three years from 2025–26 for a health assessment item on the MBS for women of all ages experiencing perimenopause and menopause.

### **6. IMPROVING ACCESS TO MEDICINES AND PHARMACY PROGRAMS**

The Government will provide funding over six years from 2024–25 to improve access to medicines and to trial an expansion of the range of services delivered by community pharmacies. Funding includes:

- \$539.4 million over five years from 2024–25 (and an additional \$98.8 million in 2029–30) to establish the First Pharmaceutical Wholesalers Agreement with the National Pharmaceutical Services Association to ensure medicines remain accessible across Australia.
- \$109.1 million over four years from 2025–26 to support two national trials to make it cheaper and easier for many women to get contraceptives and treatment for uncomplicated urinary tract infections.

## **TOP 15 BUDGET MEASURES FOR MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS**

### **7. IMPLEMENTATION OF AGED CARE REFORMS**

The Government will provide \$291.6 million over five years from 2024–25 (and an additional \$12.7 million in 2029–30) to continue the delivery of aged care reforms and the implementation of recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.

Funding includes:

- \$116.1 million in 2025–26 in additional funding for the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission to deliver its regulatory functions under the Aged Care Act 2024 from 1 July 2025.
- \$53.2 million in 2025–26 to continue implementation of the Single Assessment System and support the staged digital implementation of the Aged Care Act 2024 to ensure continuity of aged care assessment services.
- \$47.6 million over four years from 2025–26 (and an additional \$12.7 million in 2029–30) to support First Nations organisations to deliver culturally appropriate aged care assessments for First Nations people.

### **8. FUNDING PAY INCREASES FOR AGED CARE WORKERS – NURSES**

The Government will provide \$88.3 million over five years from 2024–25 (and \$0.9 million per year ongoing) to fund the outcome of the Fair Work Commission’s decision to increase the minimum award wages of registered and enrolled nurses employed in the aged care sector.

Funding includes:

- \$48.7 million over three years from 2024–25 for Commonwealth Home Support Programme providers to cover the cost of the increase in award wages.
- \$35.5 million over two years from 2025–26 to fund historical leave provisions for Commonwealth-funded aged care providers.

The 2025–26 Budget also includes \$2.5 billion over five years from 2024–25 (and an additional \$6.1 billion from 2029–30 to 2034–35) to meet the cost of the Fair Work Commission’s decision for aged care nurses with funding to other aged care programs including residential aged care, the Home Care Packages program and the Support at Home program, which will be delivered through increases that will flow through program indexation.

## **TOP 15 BUDGET MEASURES FOR MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS**

### **9. NATIONAL HEALTH REFORM AGREEMENT – 2025-26 UPLIFT**

The Government will provide funding of \$33.9 billion in 2025–26 to extend the 2020–2025 Addendum to the National Health Reform Agreement (NHRA) to 30 June 2026. Funding includes \$32.2 billion in 2025–26 for Commonwealth funding under the NHRA.

### **10. PREVENTIVE HEALTH INITIATIVES**

The Government will provide \$132.0 million in 2025–26 to improve health outcomes through preventive health and other health initiatives. Funding includes:

- \$107.8 million in 2025–26 to extend the existing Public Dental Services for Adults funding agreement to 30 June 2026 to support the delivery of dental services to eligible adult dental patients.

### **11. PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS SCHEME (PBS) NEW AND AMENDED LISTINGS**

The Government will provide \$1.8 billion over five years from 2024–25 for new and amended listings on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, Stoma Appliance Scheme and Take Home Naloxone program.

Examples of new and amended PBS listings since the 2024–25 MYEFO include treatments for metastatic breast cancer, prostate cancer, advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer, menopausal hormone therapy, depression and endometriosis.

### **12. MEDICAL RESEARCH AND CLINICAL TRIALS**

The Government will provide \$158.6 million over five years from 2024–25 to support research and translate medical research to clinical practice, including:

- \$150.3 million over five years from 2024–25 to extend and expand the Zero Childhood Cancer Precision Oncology Medicine Program (ZERO), and to extend the Precision Oncology Screening Platform Enabling Clinical Trials (ProSPeCT) program and the Australian Rare Cancers Portal (ARC Portal).
- \$7.8 million in 2024–25 for increased operational costs for the National Health and Medical Research Council.

## **TOP 15 BUDGET MEASURES FOR MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS**

### **13. CRITICAL HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE AND SYSTEMS**

The Government will provide funding to secure critical health infrastructure and systems, including:

- \$22.9 million over five years from 2024–25 to address intravenous (IV) fluids shortages by expanding onshore IV fluid production capacity, establishing a panel of suppliers for IV fluids, and undertaking a clinical review of IV fluids.
- \$3.7 million over two years from 2025–26 to replace the Cobalt-60 teletherapy source for the calibration of radiotherapy devices used for radiation therapy.
- \$2.4 million over four years from 2025–26 (and \$0.6 million per year ongoing) to increase the core operating funding for the National Joint Replacement Registry.

### **14. DIGITAL MENTAL HEALTH**

The Government will provide additional funding of \$46.0 million over four years from 2024–25 to continue digital mental health services.

### **15. HEALTH – SAVINGS**

The Government will achieve savings of \$3.8 million over two years from 2025–26 by deferring changes to the MBS to reclassify the intravitreal eye injection item as a Type C out-of-hospital item, to allow time for further consultation on the proposed changes.

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