



**2022-23
FEDERAL
BUDGET
SUMMARY**

**FOR MEDICAL
PROFESSIONALS**

TOP 15 BUDGET MEASURES FOR MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

1. COVID-19 PACKAGE – AGED CARE

The Government will provide additional funding of \$845.4 million in 2022–23 to support older Australians and the aged care sector with managing the impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic.

Funding includes:

- \$810.2 million for claims made by aged care providers for additional costs incurred due to COVID 19 outbreaks that occur until 31 December 2022
- \$34.9 million to extend the current in reach testing arrangements in Residential Aged Care Facilities to 31 December 2022.

2. COVID 19 PACKAGE – HOSPITALS AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The Government will provide \$808.2 million in 2022–23 to extend elements of the Government’s response to COVID-19 until 31 December 2022.

Funding includes:

- \$759.9 million to extend the National Partnership on COVID-19 Response, which provides for 50 per cent of the cost of state and territory COVID 19 responses including vaccine delivery, testing and treatments
- \$48.3 million in 2022–23 to extend the GP led Respiratory Clinics program, which delivers face to face care, respiratory assessments, COVID-19 testing and treatment of COVID positive patients.

3. COVID-19 PACKAGE – MEDICARE AND MEDICINES

The Government will provide \$162.4 million in 2022–23 for COVID-19 related items.

Funding includes:

- \$145.1 million to extend Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) rebates for polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing for COVID 19 and other respiratory viruses
- \$6.3 million to establish a new temporary MBS item for general practitioners (GPs) to undertake telehealth consultations to evaluate eligible COVID positive patients’ suitability for oral antivirals
- \$5.7 million to extend the temporary MBS item to support GPs and other medical practitioners to manage COVID positive patients in the community
- \$5.4 million to continue access to Medicare rebates for telehealth appointments for patients with COVID-19, regardless of whether they have an existing clinical relationship with the GP.

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4. COVID-19 PACKAGE – PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND RAPID ANTIGEN TESTS

The Government will provide \$410.3 million in 2022–23 for the procurement and distribution of Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) and personal protective equipment (PPE) to support COVID-19 outbreak management and prevent the spread of COVID-19 in high-risk settings.

Funding includes:

- \$234.9 million to purchase 261 million units of PPE for the National Medical Stockpile (NMS) for distribution to Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACFs), the disability sector, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHs), General Practices (GPs), GP Respiratory Clinics (GPRCs), and vaccinating pharmacies
- \$174.8 million to purchase 31 million additional RATs to replenish supplies in the NMS for distribution to vulnerable population cohorts.

The Government will extend temporary access to PPE from the NMS to eligible health, aged care and residential disability care providers, including RACFs, ACCHs, GPs, GPRCs, vaccinating pharmacies and National Disability Insurance Scheme participants in supported independent living arrangements and their carers until 31 December 2022.

5. COVID-19 PACKAGE – VACCINES AND TREATMENTS

The Government will provide \$355.8 million in 2022–23 for the distribution and uptake of COVID-19 vaccines across Australia.

Funding includes:

- \$314.0 million for the distribution of fourth vaccine doses in primary care settings, pharmacies, state based clinical sites, aged and disability care facilities, and First Nations communities.

The Government has also provisioned \$500.0 million in 2022–23 for the procurement of additional vaccines and treatments on the National Medical Stockpile.

6. FIXING THE AGED CARE CRISIS

The Government will provide \$2.5 billion over 4 years from 2022–23 to reform the aged care system.

Funding includes:

- \$2.5 billion over 4 years from 2022–23 to improve the quality of care in residential aged care facilities by requiring all facilities to have a registered nurse onsite 24 hours per day, 7 days a week from 1 July 2023 and increasing care minutes to 215 minutes per resident per day from 1 October 2024.

7. IMPLEMENTING AGED CARE REFORM

The Government will provide \$540.3 million over 4 years from 2022–23 to improve the delivery of aged care services and respond to the Final Report of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.

Funding includes:

- \$312.6 million over 4 years from 2022–23 for essential aged care information and communication technologies system maintenance and enhancements, including streamlined reporting and to enable aged care sector reform.

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8. PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS SCHEME – NEW AND AMENDED LISTINGS

The Government will provide \$1.4 billion over 4 years from 2022–23 for new and amended listings on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), the Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, the Life Saving Drugs Program, the National Diabetes Services Scheme and the Stoma Appliance Scheme.

9. PLAN FOR CHEAPER MEDICINES

The Government will provide \$787.1 million over 4 years from 2022–23 (and \$233.4 million per year ongoing) to decrease the general patient co-payment for treatments on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme from \$42.50 to \$30.00 on 1 January 2023.

10. RURAL AND REGIONAL HEALTH

The Government will provide \$143.3 million over 4 years to support access to healthcare in rural and regional areas by investing in primary care services, training, workforce incentives and trials for innovative models of care.

Funding includes:

- \$74.1 million over 4 years from 2022–23 to introduce tiered financial incentive payments to recognise doctors with additional recognised skills practising in rural and remote regions, as part of the doctor stream of the Workforce Incentive Program
- \$29.4 million over 4 years from 2022–23 to expand the list of eligible health professionals and increase the rural loading in the practice stream of the Workforce Incentive Program
- \$24.7 million over 4 years from 2022–23 to fund an additional 3 rounds of the Innovative Models of Care Program to trial new primary care models.

11. STRENGTHENING FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

The Government will provide \$314.8 million over 5 years from 2022–23 to support the Government's commitment to close the gap for First Nations peoples' health and wellbeing outcomes.

Funding includes:

- \$164.3 million over 4 years from 2022–23 to invest in modern health clinics in areas of large and growing First Nations populations, as well as targeted investments to build capacity for chronic disease treatment and rehabilitation
- \$54.3 million over 5 years from 2022–23 to deliver up to 500 First Nations Certificate III and IV traineeships in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care

12. STRENGTHENING MEDICARE GP GRANTS

The Government will provide \$229.7 million over two years from 2022–23 to invest in general practices through the Strengthening Medicare General Practice (GP) Grants Program.

The grants will support general practices, including Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services and other GP-led practices, to invest in training, equipment and minor capital works to enhance digital health capability, upgrade infection prevention and control arrangements, and support practices to achieve or maintain accreditation under the National General Practice Accreditation Scheme.

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13. SUPPORT FOR NEW AND EXPECTING PARENTS

The Government will provide \$32.1 million over 4 years from 2022-23 (with \$8.7 million ongoing) to support new and expecting parents.

Funding includes:

- \$26.2 million over 4 years from 2022-23 (with \$8.7 million per year ongoing) to establish 12 perinatal mental health centres across Australia to provide Medicare Benefits Schedule psychological counselling services to new and expecting parents
- \$5.9 million over 2 years from 2022-23 to expand the pregnancy and post-natal care guidelines for expectant parents, including targeted consultation and guidance for culturally and linguistically diverse people and First Nations peoples.

14. THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION – COMPLETION OF DIGITAL AND BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION FOR CONSUMERS, HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS AND INDUSTRY

The Government will provide \$23.3 million over two years from 2022-23 (including \$12.3 million in capital funding in 2022-23 and \$7.9 million in capital funding in 2023-24) to modernise the Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA) business systems to streamline processes for the medicines and medical devices industry.

The funding will also enhance the Australian Unique Device Identification Database which provides for the safety and traceability of medical devices in Australia.

15. URGENT CARE CLINICS

The Government will provide \$235 million over 4 years from 2022-23 to commence the roll out of Urgent Care Clinics, including \$100 million over two years from 2022-23 to co-develop and pilot innovative models with states and territories to improve care pathways and inform program roll out.

The Urgent Care Clinics will reduce pressure on hospital emergency departments and make it easier for Australian families to see a doctor or a nurse when they require urgent but not life threatening care. All Urgent Care Clinics will be open during extended business hours with no appointments required, and will ensure that patients do not have out of pocket costs.

Newcastle

130 Parry Street
Newcastle West, NSW, 2302

Telephone 1800 988 522
Fax (02) 4926 1971
Email cnmail@cutcher.com.au

Sydney

20 Berry Street
North Sydney, NSW, 2059

Brisbane

36 Agnes Street,
Fortitude Valley, QLD, 4006

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