



# Budget 2018

A welcome consumer focus

# Budget Overview

- On the whole, a consumer-friendly budget.
- Over 90 separate measures across six key initiatives:
  - Guaranteeing Medicare and access to medicines
  - Rural health
  - Ageing and aged care
  - Supporting hospitals
  - Mental health and prevention
  - Health and medical research

# Budget Overview

- Record funding for hospitals including an innovation fund.
- More home care packages, system navigators and health checks for older Australians.
- Boosts to health and medical research: a focus on health system and translational research, consumer-determined priorities and consumer involvement in delivery.

# Budget Overview

- Long overdue attention to infant and maternal health.
- Increased funding for community mental health services.
- Addresses rural health workforce issues.
- Incentives for general practices to strengthen team-based multidisciplinary care including engaging non-dispensing pharmacists.

# What's missing?

- Longer-term primary care reform, particularly to create the conditions that will enable systemic uptake of patient-centred health care homes.
- Cuts to PHNs from next year will reduce their capacity to drive innovation in primary care.
- Failure to fund a comprehensive national obesity prevention strategy that follows Australia's impressive tobacco control record.
- Strategies to promote health literacy and enhanced chronic disease self-management.
- A commitment to addressing gaps in support for pain prevention and treatment services.



# Aged Care and Older People's Health

- Welcome additional support through Home Care places for older Australians to stay living in the community although not sufficient to meet unmet demand.
- Aged Care system navigators addresses consumers concerns with complexity, will empower older people to make informed choices on support and care options that meet their needs.
- New 45 and 65 online check ups acknowledge link between health and other factors including income, employment and connection to community.
- Encouraging community based physical activities for older people should lead to improved health and well being.



# Aged Care and Older People's Health

Spending	Measures
\$1.6 billion	20 000 Additional Home Care places 13,5000 residential aged care places 775 Restorative Care places
\$7.4 million	Aged care system navigator
\$32.8 million	Comprehensive Palliative Care in Aged Care
\$6.5 million	45 and 65 years online check up – health and wellbeing
\$22.9 million	Supporting increased physical activity in older people



# Child and maternal health

- \$77.9 million investment into an area which has been underfunded in recent years.
- Digital baby book, to help new parents keep track of child's records.
- Extension of immunisation campaigns.
- Research into key child and maternal health areas.





# Child and maternal health

Spending	Measures
\$39.5 million	Whooping cough vaccine for pregnant mothers
\$5 million	Digital health baby book
\$3.6 million over two measures	Pre-natal education and nutrition information
\$2 million	Extension of child immunisation campaign



# Digital Health

- Not a great deal of new investment.
- Many budget measures related to digital health under other portfolios.
- Funding for delivering some of the coming National Consumer Data Right - more funding for complaint management of that and My Health Record may be needed.



# Digital Health

Spending	Measures
\$20.5 million over four years	Delivering Australia's Digital Future — data sharing and release arrangements
\$28.2 million over five years	Improving access to Medicines — e-prescribing for safer medicines
\$44.6 million over four years, between ACCC, OAIC, CSIRO	National Consumer Data Right
\$106.8 million over four years	Modernising health and aged care payments



# Public Hospitals

- Increased funding should improve access to care in public hospitals but does not compensate for previous cuts.
- Longer term increases in next Agreement welcome.
- Innovation pool is an important part of promoting change.
- Measures to reduce avoidable hospitals admissions and improve coordination of primary care is a first step towards better integration of primary and secondary services.



# Public Hospitals

Spending	Measures
\$3.2 billion	Increased funding for public hospitals for 2017-18 to 2021-22
\$130.2 billion	Increased funding for public hospitals in next National Health Agreement 2020-21 to 2024-25
\$100 million	Innovation funding



# Medicines

- Commitment to new listings on PBS is key to access to new medicines at an affordable price.
- Concern about reduction in funding for NPS Medicinewise as this could reduce consumers access to quality information on medicines.
- Need to see more targeted activity to increase uptake on biosimilars and generic medicines so that savings can be used for new medicines.



# Medicines

Savings	Spending	Measures
	Not specified	Change to the delivery of high cost medicines
	\$1.4 billion	New and amended listings
	\$1 billion	Additional provisional funding for new medicines
\$40 million		Reduced funding for NPS Medicinewise and National return of Unwanted Medicines
\$330.8 million		Encouraging use of biosimilar and generic medicines



# Mental Health

- Targeted measures to support specific programs
  - A focus on suicide prevention resources
- A commitment to implementing the 5<sup>th</sup> National Mental Health Plan
  - Funding for the National Mental Health Commission to support this





# Mental Health

Spending	Measures
\$125 million over 10 years	Million Minds Mental Health Research Mission
\$102.5 million	Mental health support for older Australians
\$37.6 million	Aftercare following a suicide attempt – the wayback support service
\$33.8 million	Lifeline Australia
\$4.7 million	Digital health stepped care – head to health



# Indigenous Health

- Welcome measures to improve access to renal support and dialysis in remote Australia - currently a gap in service provision.
- Hearing loss and eye disease far too prevalent amongst Indigenous children so additional funding is welcome.

# Indigenous Health

Spending	Measures
Nil financial impact	Indigenous Health Services - new funding model for primary care
\$3 million	Indigenous Health - hearing and Eye health-additional funding
\$105.7 million	Expand National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care program
\$34.8 million	New MBS rebate for dialysis in very remote areas
\$23 million	Renal support activities in remote areas

# Research

- Paradigm shift in how research is prioritised:
  - MRFF investment in preventive health research
  - Community sector led health research
- Growth plan for the research industry



# Rural Health

- Incentives and funding for nurses, GPs and specialists to train and work in rural, remote and regional areas.
- Investments in data.
- Workforce Incentive Program.
- Dental, mental health, and ambulance services delivered to rural, remote and regional areas by the Royal Flying Doctor Service.



# Rural health

Spending	Measures
\$20 million	Royal Flying Doctor – dental care
\$64 million	Royal Flying Doctor – mental health
\$11 million	Scholarship program for doctors, nurses and allied health professionals
\$95.4 million	Murray-Darling Medical Schools Network
\$550 million	The Stronger Rural Health Strategy



