

Budget Overview

- \$20 billion in additional funding for health, aged care and sport.
- This is spread over a myriad of measures, with something for everyone but no significant transformational measures.
- Most of the individual measures had previously been announced.
- The main measures were across five key areas:
 - Guaranteeing Medicare and access to medicines;
 - Ageing and aged care;
 - Supporting hospitals;
 - Prioritising mental health, preventive health and sport;
 - Life saving and job creating medical research.

Budget Overview

- Additional investment in primary care:
 - New primary care enrolment model to improve coordination and access to care. This will allow clinicians to provide services without a face to face consultations - a measure long overdue.
 - Removing the Medicare freeze on remaining GP services.
- Additional investment in mental health:
 - Trial of 8 adult walk-in mental health centres will address a gap in the service system.
 - A 6 percent increase in funding for aged care services which whilst welcome still leaves the sector underfunded.

Budget Overview

- Improved access to diagnostic imaging through removing freeze on rebates and additional services. The removal of the freeze will help address out of pocket costs for consumers.
- Continued commitment to providing access to subsidising medicines through PBS and Life Saving Drug Program.

Guaranteeing Medicare

- \$6 billion additional investment
- Improved patient access to diagnostic imaging
- Heart health checks
- MBS Review implementation
- Improved transparency of out of pocket costs
- Heart of Australia three year partnership
- My Health Record
- New registries: cardiac, breast, hip fracture and trauma
- Other: PHI reforms campaign and Medicare compliance improvements



Guaranteeing Medicare

Spending over 4 years	Measures
\$926 million	For a range of initiatives to support doctors including a new funding and service model to support care coordination and flexible care for people over 70 years; (\$444.5 million); quality-focused incentive payments for general practices (\$201.5 million); increased patient rebates for 170+ GP services from 1 July 2019 (\$187.2 million).
\$606.1 million	For increased Medicare rebates for all diagnostic radiology and ultrasounds (\$198.6 million); 50 new Medicare eligible MRI units (\$375 million).
\$12.2 million	For a private health related initiatives including national strategy to tackle excessive out of pocket costs charged by medical specialists with stage 1 commencing with a website that will publish information about frees and an education initiative (\$7.2 million) and a private health insurance reforms information campaign (\$5 million).



Strengthening primary care

Spending	Measures
\$448.5 million	For additional funding to general practices to support more flexible care models for Australians over 70 including more digital services, care coordination patient follow-up and self-management.
\$388 million	For payments to general practice to focus on quality care and improvement, and increased patient rebates for 170+ GP services from 1 July 2019.
\$62.2 million	For a new rural generalist training pathway and new incentives payments to attract more rural GPs .



Improving Access to Medicines

- There is \$40 billion for medicines.
- The continued commitment to promoting access to new and quality medicines through subsidising medicines is important for most consumers.
- The listing of a new drug on the Life Saving Drug programme will be welcomed by people with Batten disease.
- Community pharmacy is a winner with additional funding and support through increased dispensing fees, and streamlined payments processes.
- The additional funding for quality use of medicines programmes in community pharmacy is welcome.
- The introduction of new products and commitment to ongoing funding the Stoma Appliance Scheme ensures people who need such appliances can access them.



Access to medicines

Spending over 4 years	Measures
\$331 million	New and amended listings on PBS
No details	New drug listing on Life Saving Drug Programme
\$458.3 million over 2 years	Supporting pharmacies and consumer access to medicines
\$380 million	Stoma Appliance Scheme
\$17.1 million	National Medical Stockpile- new model
\$0.2 million	Expansion of Glucose Monitoring Program



Prevention

- Extension of current dental benefits for children
- Whole of government drug and alcohol strategy
- Funding for cancer research and treatment
- Prevention, testing and treating of blood borne viruses and sexually transmissible infections
- Anti-smoking campaign
- Minimal action on obesity through the current Health Star Rating system
- Training primary care providers to respond better to violence against women and children



Prevention

Spending	Measures
\$1 billion over 2 years	Extension of existing Child Dental Benefits Scheme for eligible children
\$189.1 million over 4 years	Whole of government drug strategy with a focus on alcohol and drug treatment (particularly Ice and Opioids)
\$49.8 million over 4 years	Implementation of national strategies for blood borne viruses and sexually transmissible infections and the <i>Third Review of the National Gene Technology Scheme</i>
\$67.4 million	Implementing various programs to raise awareness and treat certain cancers
\$1.1 million over 2 years	Extending the funding of the current Health Star Rating system
\$9.6 million over 4 years	Training primary care providers as outlined by the <i>Fourth Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women and their Children</i>
\$2 million over 2 years	Establishing a Donor Human Milk Service for premature babies
\$20 million over 4 years	Supporting Australians living with epilepsy



Aged Care and Older People's Health

As expected, there is a significant increase in aged care funding with an overall \$7 billion (6 per cent) increase. We expect more reforms after the Royal Commission completes its work.

- The one off increase in subsidies for residential aged care –pending longer term reforms and the outcomes of the Royal commission –should help provide improved quality of care.
- The commitment to enhanced monitoring and strengthening of regulations is welcome.
- Misuse of medicines is a real problem in aged care so the measures to use pharmacists to help reduce it is overdue and welcome. The trial for in-place pharmacists in residential aged care is important.
- No increase in home care packages



Aged Care and Older People's Health

Spending over 5 years	Measures
\$320 million over 2 years	One off increase in residential aged care subsidies
\$5.9 billion over 2 years	Two year extension of funding for Commonwealth Home Support Program
\$57.4million	Improvements to quality, strengthened regulation and enhanced monitoring including new clinical indicators, serious response scheme, enhanced home care compliance measures and improved risk based targeting and information sharing
\$7.7million over 4 years	Better use of medicines in residential aged care
\$35.4 million over 4 years	Enhanced home care dementia cognition and support
\$7.7 million over 2 years	Aged care workforce Strategy implementation



Digital Health

- A number of connectivity and skills announcements
- Announcements of upgrades to regional hospitals would presumably have a digital health component
- No new digital health measures
- No change to ADHA staffing levels
- ADHA overall budget reduced from \$252,159,000 to \$211,774,000 – likely due to the end of the MHR Expansion program
- No change to MYEFO forecast of MHR continuation
- Increase from 89 to 124 staff for OAIC, partially to manage MHR complaints

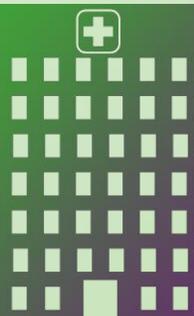
Digital Health

Spending over 2 years	Measures
\$200 million	Continuation of the My Health Record



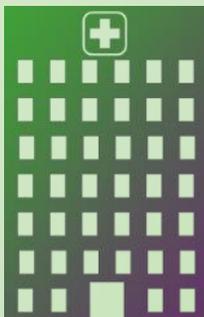
Public Hospitals

- The Community Health and Hospitals Program (CHHP) will look to tackle local service gaps by providing funding for new and existing facilities.
- This will help address some inequities in access to services by looking for local solutions to local needs.
- Likewise the additional infrastructure will target local priorities to try to improve access to a range of services. It appears a piecemeal approach with no clear program goals and criteria.



Public Hospitals

Spending	Measures
\$1.25 billion	Community Health and Hospitals Program
\$107.8 million over 5 years	Additional infrastructure
\$6.8 million over 5 years from 2020-21	National Health Funding Body



Mental Health

- \$736.6 million additional investment across the life course
- Includes \$461.1 million for youth mental health and suicide prevention
- Community mental health
- Youth Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan
- National headspace network and early psychosis youth services
- National Suicide Information Initiative
- Adult mental health services
- Perinatal and Mental Health and Wellbeing Program
- Other: workplace initiatives and natural disaster assistance



Mental Health

Spending	Measures
\$275 million	For a range of national and local community mental health services including a trial of eight new adult walk-in centres (\$114.5 million over 5 years); six residential eating disorder treatment centres (\$63 million) perinatal mental health support (\$43.9 million over 6 years); \$30.4 million for various workplace mental health programs over 4 years.
\$461 million	For a national strategy to prevent suicide and promote the mental wellbeing of young and Indigenous Australians including an expansion of the headspace network with more services and capacity to meet demand (\$375 million over 6 years); Indigenous Suicide Prevention (\$15 million over 3 years); Childhood and Parenting Support including Kids Helpline & Raising Children's Network (\$11.8 million) and a new national information system to help communities and services respond quickly to high incidences of suicide and self-harm (\$15 million).
\$110 million over 2 years	For continuation of the Early Psychosis Youth Services Program



Indigenous Health

Spending	Measures
\$10 billion over 10 years	\$4.1 billion over the first 4 years boost to spending on Indigenous Health

Research

- 10 year investment plan for the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) involving specific research missions and emphasis on access to clinical trials, research infrastructure, funding researchers, translating research for rapid application.
- Establish a new Health and Medical Research Office to oversee the research being funded by the MRFF
- Funding towards Indigenous health priorities



Research

Spending over 10 years	Measures
\$1.3 billion	Clinical trials for rare cancers, rare diseases and unmet needs (\$614 million)
\$0.8 billion	Researchers to conduct frontier health and medical research
\$1.4 billion	Genomics Health Futures Mission (\$500 million), Stem Cell Mission (\$150 million), Cardiovascular Mission (\$220 million), and Traumatic Brain Injury (\$50 million).
\$1.5 billion	Translating research through Rapid Research Translation Centres (\$218 million), National Critical Infrastructure (\$605 million), and Data Infrastructure (\$80 million).
\$170 million over 3 years	Indigenous research organisation Lowitja Institute (\$10 million) and making rheumatic heart disease, avoidable blindness and avoidable deafness (\$160 million).
\$20 million over 4 years	Health and Medical Research Office



What's missing

An overall vision for what the health system should look like:

- No substantive prevention measures;
- Nothing to address the obesity epidemic;
- No increase in Newstart to move people out of poverty and reduce health inequities;
- No new dental funding with just a continuation of the Child Dental Benefit Scheme at existing levels; and
- No extra Home Care Packages, despite the long waiting list.

More information

- Department of Health budget website at www.health.gov.au/budget2019
- Treasury www.budget.gov.au
- CHF webinar ‘Health priorities for Australia’
9 April www.chf.org.au/events to register

