

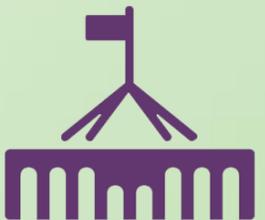
Federal Budget 2020

Health priorities for Australia



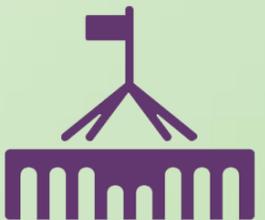
Budget Overview

- A Budget eve that has shown the inextricable link between the health of the community and of the economy
- A Budget context that saw newfound community trust in government and support for government spending on public health services
- Reflected in government response of a record investment in health over four years of \$467 b, up \$32 b on last year
- Community sentiment positive about the value of our universal Medicare, PBS and public hospital system



Budget Overview

- Some re-announcements and provision for \$16.5 b for the ongoing COVID-19 emergency response
- Some down-payments in primary care, aged and mental health but no overall complete packages of reform
- Welcome measures include telehealth; aged care home packages; expanded mental health services; vaccine provision; rural health and PHI coverage to 'hospital in the home' services
- Deficits include preventive health; future pandemic preparedness; systemic primary care, aged care and mental health reform
- Budget 2021 critical to responses to major taskforces and inquiries underway or finalised



Stakeholder Views

- All agreed that additional funding to meet the COVID pandemic was necessary and welcome
- The increased spending on medicines, with increased spending on new life saving and prolonging treatment was welcomed by consumers and industry
- Some, such as the Australian College of Nursing and the AMA identify the lack of a longer-term reform agenda and see the Budget as an opportunity missed. Many agree that this puts extra pressure on the 2021 Budget and the myriad of reviews and plans to set out a way to take the “revolution” further
- The lack of prevention measures is a major deficit as highlighted by the PHHA, AMA and others
- The failure to move to permanently increase Jobseeker rates and lack of action on Commonwealth Rent Assistance is a real problem as identified by ACOSS, COTA, AMA and many other key groups.



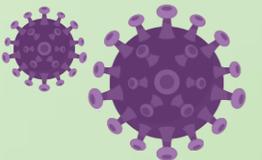
Stakeholder views

- COTA and others reinforce the view that the aged care measures must be seen as a down-payment on longer term reform and that the Government will need to act quickly in response to the Royal Commission's final report
- Timeline for COVID vaccine underpinning Budget is probably optimistic
- As Research Australia points out the additional money for research is welcome but does not make up for the full impact of COVID-19 on the university and research sectors



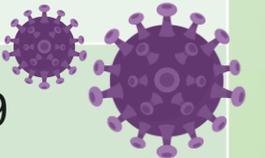
COVID-19 Measures

- Range of COVID-19 measures covering health and aged care continue to be funded
- Aged Care Response Plan extended measures introduced in response to the pandemic. The Inclusion of additional grief and bereavement services is important as this is often overlooked
- The funding for increasing the National Medical Stockpile is essential and this needs to be maintained, even after the current COVID pandemic has passed



COVID-19 Measures

Spending	Measures
\$16.5 billion overall	COVID-19 emergency health response
\$1.6 billion	COVID-19 Aged Care Response Plan
\$266.8 million	Mental health and preventative health
\$2.3 billion	to support our home-grown researchers and manufacturers to develop and produce a COVID-19 vaccine, including \$1.7 billion for COVID-19 Vaccination and Treatment Strategy
\$8 billion	Hospital support: National Partnership on COVID-19 Response, (\$3.1 billion), a private hospital viability guarantee (\$1.7 billion) and \$3.3 billion National Medical Stockpile
\$4.3 billion	For "Guaranteeing Medicare and medicine access"
\$711.7 million	Temporary extension of MBS pathology items to detect COVID-19



Income Support

- No permanent increase to the JobSeeker rate and no clear signals on what the Government will do in the future
- Temporary relief for some through \$250 support payments
- JobMaker Hiring Credit to support people into employment



Income Support

Spending	Measures
\$4 billion	JobMaker Hiring Credit to support organisations to employ someone who has been on JobSeeker
\$2.6 billion	Two \$250 economic support payments in November 2020 and early 2021 to aged, family and disability support payment recipients
\$45.7 million	Expand the Individual Placement and Support Program under the Youth Employment Strategy to assist young people with mental illness to participate in the workforce



Primary care

- Extension of MBS funding for telehealth to March 2021 as announced under Stage 7
- No expansion of funding for voluntary patient enrolment despite plan to change the measure to a population-wide model
- Expecting significant primary care reform will come through the 10 Year Primary Health Care Plan in the next Budget



Primary Care

\$2.4 billion	Medicare subsidised telehealth services extended – GP, nursing, midwifery, allied health, mental health and essential specialist services
\$377.5 million	GP-led respiratory clinics extended to March 2021
\$39 billion	Guaranteed MBS and PBS spending in 2020-21 (increase of \$7.9 billion from last year)
\$17.3 million	Continue implementation of MBS Review Taskforce recommendations
\$33 million	Expand Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care services



Improving Access to Medicines

- PBS New Medicines Funding Guarantee. Will deliver new funding each year for the listing of new medicines on the PBS, to be replenished each year to meet the expected cost of new and amended listings.
- Government will also complete new long-term agreements with Medicines Australia and the Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association to commence at the expiry of the current agreements in 2022. To be finalised over the coming months.
- Government has negotiated and funded a new Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, providing \$18.3 billion for pharmacy dispensing and medication managements programs.



Access to Medicines

\$49 million investment over four years	the National Immunisation Program (NIP) the meningococcal B vaccine is available for free to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander infants under two years.
\$18.3 billion	pharmacy dispensing and medication managements programs
\$5 million	fast-tracking electronic prescribing
\$25 million	home delivery of medicines to protect vulnerable Australians



Prevention

- No specific funding for measures to be announced in the National Preventive Health Strategy (expect these in next year's Budget)
- Lack of investment in social determinants which help maintain health and wellbeing including:
 - Income support payments
 - Social housing



Prevention



Spending	Measures
\$50 million	Establish the Victorian Melanoma and Clinical Trials Centre
\$21.2 million	National three year hearing health campaign, focussing on preventing, treating and destigmatising avoidable hearing loss and damage
\$22.5 million	Administer the national Antimicrobial Use and Resistance in Australia (AURA) Surveillance System, and the national antimicrobial strategy
\$11.5 million	Broadening Cancer Australia's tumour-specific funding streams to a broader range of cancer types
\$44.9 million	Support package for all recognised thalidomide survivors
\$39.6 million	Sporting Schools Program – free sporting activities in schools
\$35 million	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander projects including ending avoidable deafness, blindness and eradicating chronic kidney disease

Aged Care and Older People's Health

- Increased investment in aged care in response to the shortcomings identified by the Royal Commission and highlighted by COVID-19 experience is welcome
- Measures need to be fast tracked as the need is immediate
- Still need greater transparency on how funding is spent
- Increase in Home Care Packages falls well short of what is needed to reduce the waiting times
- Measure to reduce younger people in aged care is good beginning but the limited availability of alternatives needs to be addressed



Aged Care and Older People's Health

Spending	Measures
\$1.6 billion	Home Care Packages –additional 23,000 packages
\$25.5 million	Home Care Reform
\$81 million	Additional surge workforce and increased training for aged care workers
\$205.1 million	Extension of the Aged Care Workforce Retention Bonus Payment
\$9.1 million	Support the establishment of the Victorian Aged Care Response Centre
\$11.3 million	More specialist counselling and expert psychological services in aged care to reduce misuse of chemical and physical restraints
\$29.8 million	Serious Incident Response Scheme to provide 70 additional staff to regulate, inspect and provide safeguards for people in aged care
\$11.3 million	Dementia Care and Support
\$10.6 million	Reduce number of younger people in residential aged care



Rural Health

- Stronger Rural Health Strategy worth \$550 million will be implemented to expand training opportunities for doctors and encourage more multidisciplinary care
- Trial of new models for primary health care in smaller rural communities will look at ways to better utilise and integrate resources within those communities
- Expansion of the Rural Health Multidisciplinary Training program will continue to provide benefits to rural communities



Rural Health

Spending	Measures
\$50.3 million	Rural Health Multidisciplinary Training Program
\$3.3 million	New models of primary care in smaller communities
\$125 million	Rural and Remote Clinical Trial enabling Infrastructure



Private Health Insurance

- Piecemeal policy initiatives rather than a full inquiry and full policy response into the value of Private Health Insurance (PHI)
- Expanding the provision of home and community based mental health and rehabilitation for orthopaedic patients will be welcomed by many consumers as it gives more choice
- Two actuarial studies of two key components of PHI-Lifetime Health Cover and risk equalisation welcome first step but the outcomes need to be made public to inform the policy debate
- Expansion of Medical Cost Finder website welcome but need some incentives for clinicians to participate to give individual specialist fees as well as a consumer awareness campaign
- Increasing the age of family dependents from 24 to 31 has the potential to increase benefits paid and so increase premiums



Private Health Insurance

Spending	Measures
\$17.1million	Expansion of Medical Cost Finder to improve transparency of out of pocket costs
\$2.4 million	Actuarial Studies of Incentives
No cost to Government	Increase to Home and Community based care Increase in age of family dependents



Mental Health

- More Medicare-funded Better Access psychology sessions, as recommended by the Productivity Commission
- No further funding to implement the remaining Productivity Commission recommendations
- Concern this continues tinkering rather than broader system-wide mental health reform – money is good but strategy for investment still needed



Mental Health

Spending	Measures
\$100.8 million	Access to psychology sessions under the Better Access Program expanded from 10 to 20 Medicare subsidised services per year
\$630.4 million	Expanding the number of headspace centres from 124 to 153 by 2022
\$64.1 million	Suicide prevention support including expanding aftercare and youth peer support
\$48.1 million	Support for the National Mental Health and Wellbeing Pandemic Response Plan
\$76 million	Mental health support for Australians affected by the 2019-20 bushfires
\$47.3 million	Additional mental health and crisis support for Victorians, including 15 enhanced mental health clinics and support for Beyond Blue, Kids Helpline and Lifeline.



Indigenous Health

Spending	Measures
\$49 million investment over four years	the National Immunisation Program (NIP) the meningococcal B vaccine is available for free to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander infants under two years
\$4 billion over the coming four years	in Indigenous health funding
\$90 million	to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled health organisations under a new funding model, which provides three-year funding agreements and annual indexation
\$35 million	42 projects in areas such as ending avoidable Indigenous deafness, ending avoidable Indigenous blindness, and helping to eradicate chronic kidney disease (including investment of \$14.4 million provided through the first grant round of the Indigenous Health Research Fund)
\$33 million	through the Indigenous Australians' Health Programme to expand Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care services



Research

- The \$1 billion through the Research Support Program is welcomed but is not sufficient
- The full capitalisation of the MRFF was an important measure
- The funding for preventative health initiatives, vaccine rollout and mental health research addresses some areas much in need of a boost.



Research

Spending	Measures
\$6.6 billion over four years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical Research Future Fund (\$2.5 billion) • National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) (\$3.6 billion) • Biomedical Translation Fund (\$500 million)
\$424.3 million	<p>For new research grants and new program openings including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pathogen Genomics (work on getting benefit from genes and gene science) • 2020 COVID-19 Mental Health Research Grant Round (inc \$610,000 for adolescent health through enhancing parents' ability to support) • Targeted Calls for Research Grant Round (e.g. \$1 million for Chronic fatigue research)
\$110 million	2021 Frontier Health and Medical Research program
\$7.5 million	Efficient Use of Existing Medicines
\$44 million	2021 Centres of Research Excellence
\$9 million	Childhood Cancer Research Grant
\$2.3 billion	support our home-grown researchers and manufacturers to develop and produce a COVID-19 vaccine



More information

- Department of Health [budget website](#)
- Treasury: www.budget.gov.au
- CHF webinar "Health priorities for Australia" - Friday 9 April
Register for the webinar: www.chf.org.au/events

