



Australian College of Nursing

BUDGET

2020-21 Summary

AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF NURSING

2020-21 FEDERAL BUDGET UPDATE

Australian College of Nursing (ACN) Policy Team has reviewed the Australian Government 2020-21 Budget. The following provides an overview of 2020-21 Budget measures .

2020-21 Fact Sheets available [here](#).

Overview

Long Term National Health Plan

\$115.5 billion in 2020–21 for health, aged care and sport.

\$32 billion additional funding for health, aged care and sport over 4 years from 2020–21 to 2023–24.

- **\$6b additional for Medicare.**
 - \$2.4b total investment in telehealth.
- **\$1.9b for life-saving medicines over four years.**
 - PBS New Medicines Funding Guarantee.
- **\$33.6b additional for hospitals.**
 - \$133.6b funding for five-year National Hospital Reform Agreement, an increase of \$33.6b.
 - New Private Health Insurance reforms to support hospital in the home and lower premiums for young Australians.
- **\$5.7b for Mental Health.**
 - Doubling of support under Better Access, from 10 to 20 Medicare-funded psychological services
- **\$6.6b for life-saving medical research.**
 - \$20b MRFF reached maturity in July 2020.
 - \$424m in new MRFF grants and new program openings.



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- **\$8b additional for aged care.**
 - 23,000 additional home care packages.
- **\$8.4b for preventive health and sport over four years.**
 - Lifetime support for Australia's Thalidomide Survivors.

Guaranteeing Medicare and Access to Medicines

COVID-19 Strengthening primary care – \$4.3 billion investment

- Building on the 32.8 million telehealth services provided to date (30 Sept 2020), continuing access to Medicare-subsidised telehealth for general practitioner, nursing, midwifery, allied health, allied mental health services, specialist services and Medicare-subsidised pathology.
 - Temporary Access to Medicare-subsidised Telehealth - GP, nursing, midwifery, allied health and mental health services and for essential specialist services – \$2.4 billion
 - Interim System Build to Support Ongoing Telehealth – \$18.6 billion
- Medicare-subsidised pathology and testing at the point of care will continue in 86 rural and remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
- Funding for up to 150 GP-led respiratory clinics nationally.

Ensuring access to medicines during the pandemic

- Supporting access to medicines through fast tracking e-prescribing (\$5m) and home delivery of medicines to protect vulnerable Australians (\$25m).
- Continued dispensing of medicines emergency measure.

Guaranteeing Medicare – \$28.8 billion investment

- \$6b increase in Medicare funding over the next four years.

Improving Access to Medicines – \$10.2 billion investment

- PBS New Medicines Funding Guarantee.
- Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement (\$18.3b).
- Listing of Evolocumab for hypercholesterolaemia (\$179.2m) and Lynparza® (olaparib) for ovarian, fallopian tube or primary peritoneal cancers (\$57.4m).
- New payment arrangements for high cost medicines.
- New strategic agreements to be negotiated with Medicines Australia and GBMA.



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- Funding vaccines under the National Immunisation Program (\$49m), potentially fatal meningococcal and pneumococcal diseases.
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged two years and under will benefit from free meningococcal vaccines.
 - People aged over 70, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over 50 and people of all ages with medical conditions that increase their risk will get free pneumococcal vaccination.
- Modernising business with the TGA (\$12m), improved regulation for medicinal cannabis (\$1.7m), introduction of a unique device identification system for implanted medical devices (\$7.7m) and development of a medicines unique identification framework.

Stronger Rural Health Strategy – \$550 million investment

- Rural, Regional and Remote Clinical Trial Enabling Infrastructure Program (\$125m).
- Rural Health Multidisciplinary training infrastructure (\$50.3m).
- New models of primary care to address rural workforce shortages (\$3.3m).
- The Stronger Rural Health Strategy will give doctors more opportunities to train and practise in rural and remote Australia and give nurses and allied health professionals a greater role in the delivery of multidisciplinary, team-based primary care. This Budget also supports trials to test new ways of providing health services to smaller, connected rural communities across New South Wales, focusing on models to create efficient, coordinated networks of GPs, nurses and other health providers. The outcomes will inform wider primary care reform in rural Australia.

Prioritising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health – \$4 billion over four years

- \$975.5m in 2020–21.
- \$546.9m in Indigenous Australians Health Programme (IAHP) funding to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled health clinics. A further \$33m is being provided through the IAHP to expand Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care services.

Other measures

- Workforce infection control training and surge capacity - \$30m
- Support for planning and preparedness activities in remote communities, including increased screening protocols to reduce travel - \$5m
- Medical Indemnity coverage for returning medical practitioners and midwives - \$3.7m



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Supporting our hospitals

Ensuring hospital capacity through COVID-19 – \$4.8 billion investment

- Ensuring hospital capacity through the National Partnership on COVID-19 Response, which includes the State Health and Hospital 50/50 Sharing Agreement (\$3.1b) and harnessing the private hospital viability guarantee (\$1.7b).

National Hospital Funding Agreement – \$33.6 billion increase over 5 years

- Record \$133.6b funding for the next five years across all states and territories through the National Health Reform Agreement, including a \$33.6b increase in funding.
- Up from \$13.3b in 2012–13, to \$23.6b in 2020–21 to \$28.2b in 2023–24.
- Private Health Insurance reforms, including increasing the age of dependants, improving transparency of out of pocket costs website and consultation for hospital in the home initiatives, including for mental health and rehabilitation.

COVID National Medical Stockpile – \$3.3 billion investment

- Additional funding to ensure the National Medical Stockpile continues to provide access to medicines, PPE and medical supplies and equipment (\$3.3b) and increasing onshore mask manufacturing capability (\$9.2m).

Prioritising Mental Health, Preventive Health and Sport

COVID-19 Supporting mental health – \$165.9 million investment (from 2020–21 to 2021–22)

- Support to implement the National Mental Health Pandemic Response Plan (\$48.1m).
- Support for frontline health workers, older Australians, young people, new parents and Indigenous Australians (\$45.6m).
- Additional mental health support for Victorians, including \$26.9m for 15 new *HeadtoHelp* clinics.



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A commitment to mental health – \$319.8 million investment

- Additional Medicare-subsidised psychology sessions – doubling Better Access sessions from 10 to 20 sessions nationally (\$100.8m).
- Supporting young Australians with funding for Lifeline and Kids HelpLine (\$2m).
- Funding to support Australia’s youth through headspace (\$26.1m).
- Expansion of Standby Support After Suicide program for bereaved families (\$10m), and the Way Back Support Service following a suicide attempt (\$7m).
- (\$50.3m) to support people affected by bushfires through funding for trauma response co-ordinators, trauma care training and expansion of mental health services and community grants for bushfire-affected areas, and telehealth services.
- Funding for immediate frontline emergency counselling and hotlines (\$10.5m).

Preventive health – \$184.1 million investment

- Support for Australia’s Thalidomide Survivors (\$44.9m).
- Implementation of the Roadmap for Hearing Health (\$21.2m).
- Streamlining Cancer Australia’s Tumour Specific Funding Streams (\$11.5m).
- Investment in antimicrobial usage and resistance (AMR) surveillance (\$22.5m).
- Victorian Melanoma and Clinical Trials Centre (\$50m).
- Increasing awareness of migraines (\$0.6 million over two years from 2021–22)

Mental health response to bushfires

Investing \$76 million from 2019–20 to 2021–22 for:

- Frontline emergency distress and trauma counselling in affected areas.
- Providing up to 10 additional face-to-face and telehealth Medicare-subsidised psychological therapy sessions under the Bushfire Recovery Access Initiative.
- Training for emergency services personnel and their employers to ensure they are equipped to recognise and respond to trauma.
- Expanding local mental health services commissioned by Primary Health Networks (PHNs) to meet increased demand.
- Bolstering the capacity of headspace services in areas significantly affected, including expansion of the planned Bateman’s Bay service.
- Funding for bushfire trauma response coordinators to be a single point of contact and link individuals with appropriate mental health supports.



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- Small community grants for grass-roots activities to strengthen social connectedness, improve mental health and assist community recovery.

Sport and physical activity – \$46.7 million investment

- Continuation of Sporting Schools (\$39.6m).
- Supporting women in sport with funding for the 2023 Women’s World Cup (\$2.4m).

Ageing and Aged Care

Supporting home care – \$1.6 billion investment

- Helping older Australians live at home for longer through providing an additional 23,000 home care places (\$1.6b). Increase of 73,105 places since May 2018.
- This builds on the \$325.7 million investment for 6,105 packages, announced by the Prime Minister on 8 July 2020.
- The Government has now invested an additional \$4.6 billion in 73,105 packages since the 2018–19 Budget.
- From February 2021, providers of home care will be paid once aged care services are delivered, rather than in advance. This will cost \$25.5 million from 2020–21 until 2023–24.

COVID-19 Aged Care Response Plan – \$1.6 billion investment

- Introduction in March and subsequent expansion of the COVID-19 Aged Care Response Plan (\$1.6b total since March, including \$746.3b this Budget), including:
 - o Surge workforce support:
 - Funding for the Aged Care Workforce Retention Payment (\$440m) - across three payments – to encourage residential and home care workers to continue providing direct care services during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Investment to support aged care surge workforce (\$204.6m).
 - Grants to support aged care workers at single sites (SACWIC) (\$92.4m).
 - o Public and private hospital COVID-19 partnerships – more than 500 patients transferred.
 - o Increased testing services:
 - More than 165,000 tests to aged care residents and staff across Australia.



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- More than 38.5 million personal protective equipment items provided for aged care and mandating Infection control officers, enhanced nurse training.
- Establishment of the Victorian Aged Care Response Centre (\$9.1m).
- Supporting older Australians living at home through CHSP (\$70m).
- Short-Term Support for Older Australians on Leave from Residential Aged Care (\$71.4m).

Additional support for the aged care workforce includes:

- \$81 million for additional surge workforce and increased training for aged care workers on top of \$101.2 million announced in March 2020.
- \$8.4 million for supplementary payments to help cover quarantine costs and interstate staff.
- \$1.5 million to ensure appropriate and regular communication from Health Direct to the families and loved ones of Aged Care Residents affected by COVID-19.
- \$9 million for the Aged Care Quality Safety Commission.

Safety and quality and foundations for reform – \$408.5 million investment

- Dementia training and support (\$11.3m). This builds on the \$10 million 2019–20 investment in additional support and training services for the aged care sector and informal carers of people experiencing behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia.
- Implementation of aged care workforce strategy (\$10.3m). This builds on the initial \$2.6 million investment provided in 2019–20 to establish the Aged Care Workforce Industry Council and to commence the implementation of the Strategy.
- Keeping young people out of residential aged care (\$10.6m from 2020–21 to 2022–23).
- New funding model to support better care (\$91.6m from 2020–21 to 2021–22). This funding builds on previous investments of \$166.9 million announced in the July Economic and Fiscal Update to continue to improve the aged care funding model, bringing the total investment to date to \$258.5 million.
- Support for the Royal Commission (\$4.1m in 2020–21).
- Support through the Business Improvement Fund (\$35.6m from 2020–21 to 2021–22). The Fund supports eligible residential aged care providers that are experiencing financial difficulty to undertake business improvement activities; assist with the sale or transfer of a facility to another provider; or close a facility in a safe and orderly way.
- Commonwealth Disability Support for Older Australians (\$125.3m from 2020–21 to 2023–24). The Disability Support for Older Australians (DSOA) Program will replace the Commonwealth Continuity of Support (CoS) Programme on 1 July 2021.
- Investments in the Serious Incident Response Scheme (\$29.8m).



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- Expanding the Single In Home Support Program to support older people at home (\$4.6m)

Aged Care – Greater Choice for At Home Palliative Care

- Palliative care services across health, aged care and primary care will benefit from the extension of the Greater Choice for At Home Palliative Care program. This will support access to end-of-life care for Australians, regardless of where they live, including in residential aged care facilities. Implementation of the program will be extended through 11 Primary Health Networks in rural, regional and metropolitan trial sites across Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia (\$3.6 million in 2020–21).

Aged Care – enhancing nursing skills and leadership capability in aged care

ACN funding for *Transition to Practice Program*

- \$10.8 million over five years from 2020-21 to enhance the skills and competencies of Enrolled Nurses and Registered Nurses working in aged care by expanding the Australian College of Nursing Scholarship Program and establishing an Aged Care Transition to Practice Program to help graduate nurses transition to the aged care workforce, and to establish a skills development program for nurses and personal care workers working in residential aged care

Life-saving and job-creating medical research

\$20 billion Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) endowment fully established in July 2020

Research into COVID-19 treatments and vaccines – \$2.3 billion investment

- Securing COVID-19 vaccine access for all Australians (\$1.7b).
- National Vaccine and Treatment Strategy to guide strategic investments to access and manufacture COVID-19 vaccines.
- Initial investment to access COVID vaccine doses through the Gavi COVAX Facility (\$123.2m).
- Funding for life-saving research into treatments for COVID-19 via the MRFF (\$95.2m).

Ground-breaking medical research and clinical trials – \$6.6 billion over 4 years

- \$424.3m in MRFF grants and new program openings.
- \$6.6b funding for MRFF, NHMRC and BTF over the next four years.
- Patients (\$1.3b) – clinical trials for innovative treatments, delivering more advanced health care and medical technology.



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- Researchers (\$0.8b) – Frontier Health and Medical Research.
- Missions (\$1.4b) – Genomics Health Futures Missions (\$500m); Stem Cell Mission; Cardiovascular Mission; and Traumatic Brain Injury Mission (\$49m).
- Translations (\$1.5b) – Rapid Applied Research Translation Centres (\$218m); National Critical Infrastructure (\$605m); and Research Data Infrastructure (\$80m)

Other measures

- Purchase of peripherals to enable COVID-19 vaccine administration – \$24.7m

Education

- \$25.0 million over five years from 2020-21 to establish a fund to enable the Government to respond flexibly and quickly to emerging priorities and educational challenges presented by COVID-19
- \$251.8 million over two years from 2020-21 for an additional 50,000 subsidised higher education short course places across a range of discipline areas in agriculture, health, IT, science and teaching

Environment

- Further investments to strengthen resilience to natural disasters will be announced in the Australian Government's response to the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements.
- The Government will provide \$6.6 million over three years from 2020-21 to implement and administer the Commonwealth's commitment to ban the export of certain types of waste from 1 January 2021. The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment will administer a licensing and declaration scheme to enable the export of waste materials where it can be demonstrated that sufficient processing has occurred prior to export to prevent harm to the environment or human health overseas.