



# BUDGET

## 2021-22 Summary

## AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF NURSING 2021-22 FEDERAL BUDGET UPDATE

Australian College of Nursing (ACN) representatives have reviewed the Australian Government 2021-22 Federal Budget. The following provides an overview of the Budget measures most relevant to the ACN, its members and the health care system more broadly.

2021-22 Budget Papers available [here](#).

### Ageing and aged care

#### Responding to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety

The aged care sector will receive \$17.7 billion over five years to reform the aged care system in response to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. Total spending on aged care in 2021-22 expected to be \$25.9 billion.

#### Delivering quality residential care

- \$7.8 billion towards residential aged care services.
- New government-funded Basic Daily Fee supplement model intends to provide more certainty and stability for providers with a \$10 per resident increase per day.
- New requirements for residential aged care facilities to deliver an average of 200 care minutes per resident per day from 1 October 2023.
- \$3.9 billion to increase the amount of front line care (care minutes) delivered to residents of aged care and respite services, mandated at 200 minutes per day, including 40 minutes with a registered nurse.

#### Improving quality, safety and transparency

- \$18.4 million over four years from 2021-22 to enhance the oversight and transparency of home care package delivery.
- Additional \$74.8 million will enable providers to deliver individualised, high-quality care for people living with dementia, including enhanced training and specialist advisory services.



# BUDGET

## 2021-22 Summary

- From 1 July 2022, residential care providers will be required to report and publish care staffing minutes for each facility on the MyAgedCare website. Providers will also be required to report to residents and their families on care delivered.
- From 1 July 2024, funding will be made available to increase choice for senior Australians receiving residential care with care packages assigned to consumers, not providers. This will improve transparency, giving older Australians more choice, and encouraging providers to deliver better quality facilities and care.

### **Supporting older Australians to stay at home for longer**

- \$6.5 billion to provide an additional 80,000 Home Care Packages.
- New program to better target services to older Australians' assessed care needs, and ensure care provided is of a high quality and sustainable.
- Improved access and funding arrangements for respite and reablement services. This will assist carers, improve the experience of respite care for older Australians, and better support them and their families to plan for their future care needs.
- \$798.3 million will provide greater support for unpaid and family carers to access services and support they need. This includes enhanced and targeted support for carers looking after a person with dementia.
- \$10.8 million in 2021-22 to design and plan a new home care program to better meet the needs of senior Australians.

### **Strengthening aged care quality, safety and governance**

- \$21.1 million to establish new arrangements to provide greater independent oversight of the aged care system, including establishing an independent pricing authority.
- \$301.3 million to address failures in care and increase the capability and capacity of the independent Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission, responsible for regulating the sector.
- A new Aged Care Act, replacing the Aged Care Act 1997 and the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission Act 2018. The new Act will ensure consumers are at the centre of the aged care system.
- \$365.7 million to enhance primary care for older Australians, including improved access to general practitioners (GPs) and better coordination of health services.



# BUDGET

## 2021-22 Summary

### Better connecting older Australians with aged care

- \$630.2 million to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and special needs groups, as well as people living in regional, rural and remote communities access aged care services. This will include delivering upgrades to aged care infrastructure, and establishing an Indigenous workforce to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to better navigate aged and disability care.
- \$200.1 million to empower older Australians and their families to make more informed choices about the quality and safety of aged care, including a new Star Rating System on My Aged Care website; the Serious Incident Response Scheme extended to in-home care; and a trial of regional staff networks to provide face-to-face support for those navigating the system.

### Workforce

- \$652.1 million to grow a skilled, professional and compassionate aged care workforce, which will be the powerhouse of the Government's reform agenda, including:
  - \$228.2 million to create a single assessment workforce to undertake all assessments that will improve and simplify the assessment experience for senior Australians as they enter or progress within the aged care system.
  - \$135.6 million to provide eligible registered nurses with financial support of \$3,700 for full-time workers, and \$2,700 for part-time workers.
  - \$9.8 million to extend the national recruitment campaign, and to help increase the skilled and dedicated aged care workforce, and
  - upskill the existing workforce and providing training for thousands of new aged care workers, including 33,800 subsidised Vocational Education and Training places through JobTrainer.
  - \$216.7 million to provide eligible registered nurses in aged care with financial support of \$3,700 for full time workers and \$2,700 for part time workers, nursing scholarships and places in the Aged Care Transition to Practice Program.



# BUDGET

## 2021-22 Summary

## Health

### Health funding

- Health funding to increase from \$98.3 billion in 2021-22 to \$103.2 billion in 2024-25. As part of the 2020-25 National Health Reform Agreement, Commonwealth funding of public hospitals is estimated to exceed \$130 billion over five years.
- \$220 million over four years to amend and add new health services to the Medicare Benefits Schedule. This includes changes to fund a new paediatric cancer therapy and a new test for inflammatory bowel disease.
- \$50.7 million to progress work on introducing MyGP, one of the first steps in the Government's 10 Year Primary Health Care Plan. This will strengthen the relationship between Australians and their regular GP and promote better continuity of care.
- Increase to bulk billing incentives in rural and remote areas, improving access to health services at a cost of \$65.8 million.
- \$878.7 million for new and amended listings to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), including medicines to treat chronic migraines, eczema, breast cancer, lung cancer, osteoporosis and asthma.

### Investing in a healthier Australia

- \$16.6 million in new funding for women's health services that deliver maternal, sexual and reproductive health. Funding of \$5 million will support the Pelvic Pain Foundation of Australia deliver its Period Pain and Endometriosis Program.
- \$1.5 million to the Hello Sunday Morning 'Daybreak Program' to help Australians who are trying to reduce the problematic use of alcohol.
- \$5.9 million will be provided to continue the Good Sports Program, which offers free tools and support to community sports clubs to develop policies that address alcohol, illicit drugs, mental health and healthy eating issues.
- \$40.8 million to continue the Sporting Schools program, encouraging children to participate in sport and physical activity across primary and secondary schools.

### Supporting Indigenous Australians

- \$4.1 billion over 4 years for Prioritising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (as part of long term national health plan).





# BUDGET

## 2021-22 Summary

- \$700 million to improve health and ageing outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including better mental health services including culturally appropriate after care and 24/7 crisis support, strengthened primary health care for Indigenous Australians and improved access to quality aged care services.
- \$57.6 million for targeted measures to address violence against Indigenous women and children. This includes funding for legal services, a dedicated survey and improving the quality, capability and cultural safety of family violence services.
- \$99.3 million over four years for face-to-face remote servicing. This will provide people in remote Australia with access to payments and government services.
- \$5 million to improve food security in remote Indigenous communities.

## Mental health, preventive health and sport

### Supporting Australians' mental health

The government commits a record \$2.3 billion investment into mental health and suicide prevention.

#### Prevention and early Intervention

- \$248.6 million to strengthen access to and connection between mental health services via digital means (\$98.1 million).

#### Suicide prevention

- Includes \$298.1 million for aftercare services for people following a suicide attempt (\$158.6 million).

#### Treatment

- \$1.4 billion towards treatments, including \$820 million for adult Head to Health, youth Headspace and kid's Head to Health Treatment centres; \$288 million for new mental health treatments and \$26.9 million for eating disorder services.





# BUDGET

## 2021-22 Summary

### Supporting the vulnerable

- \$107 million total, including \$16.9 million for mental health support for multicultural communities; and \$79 million for mental health services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

### Workforce and governance

- \$201.7 million total, including \$61.3 million for mental health workforce and workplace support, \$140.4 million for mental health governance; and \$27.8 million to increase the number of nurses, psychologists, and allied health practitioners in mental health settings through up to 280 scholarships and 350 clinical placements.

### Preventive health

- \$250.9 million total, including \$74.1 million for drug, alcohol and other substances treatment and support services.
- Preventive Health Strategy.
  - \$1.8 million to reduce the number of stillbirths by 20% by 2025.
  - \$535 million for women's preventive health initiatives.
  - \$130.9 million for cancer screening and support, including cervical, breast and lung cancer.
  - \$125.9 million to improve cancer screening and save lives, including \$6.9 million towards five lung cancer care nurses to provide support to patients and their families and for lung cancer related research activities, \$32.8 million to support cervical screening programs, and \$67.6 million to the BreastScreen Australia program.

## Disability

### National Disability Insurance Scheme

The government commits an additional \$13.2 billion to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) over four years, with total funding now to \$26 billion.

- \$17.9 million over four years for early intervention support to young children with developmental concerns or disability. This funding will ensure children and their families establish early connections with mainstream and community support services. These





# BUDGET

## 2021-22 Summary

services include access to a range of workshops and supported playgroups to assist children to develop the skills and confidence they need later in life.

- From 1 January 2022 people with disability who are eligible for Disability Employment Services and are job-ready can choose to participate in digital services. This opt-in approach will provide eligible job seekers with greater agency.

## Veterans

### Improving support

- \$460.4 million to support veteran needs and accelerate the processing of compensation claims.
- Expansion or continuation of wellbeing programs that deliver better health outcomes for veterans and build their connection to community.
- An additional \$702.6 million for wellness, support, suicide prevention and ensuring the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) is appropriately equipped.
- Announcement of a Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide to inform improved services for Australian Defence Force members and veterans at risk of suicide.

## Telehealth

### COVID-19 Primary Care response

- There has been a total investment of \$6.2 billion since March 2020 in response to COVID-19 for telehealth services including continuing access to Medicare-subsidised telehealth for general practitioner, nursing, midwifery, allied health, allied mental health and specialist services.
- \$125.7 billion over 4 years for Medicare with \$3.6 billion total investment in telehealth to date.





# BUDGET

## 2021-22 Summary

### Rural and remote health

- \$123 million for rural workforce measures will support delivery of quality health services, including \$65.8 million for the Rural Bulk Billing Incentive; \$12.4 million for the John Flynn Prevocational Doctor Program; and \$9.6 million to expand the Allied Health Rural Generalist Pathway
- \$600 million for a National Recovery and Resilience Agency to support local communities hit by major disasters.

### Climate and health

- 1.2 billion over five years to improve Australia's capability to better prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural disasters. Included as part of this cross-portfolio measure:
  - \$600 million towards creating a new national agency tasked with helping local communities respond to natural disasters.
  - The creation of an Australian Climate Service to better collate data to inform emergency management policy.

### Women

- \$3.4 billion investment towards promoting respect, dignity, choice, equality of opportunity and justice for the safety, economic security and status of women across Australia.

#### Women's safety

- \$1.1 billion for women's safety measures and builds on the Government's previous and current commitments, including under the National Plan. Domestic violence prevention funding to double to at least \$680 million, including additional funding directed towards domestic violence support.
- Increased support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children, measures to improve the online environment for women and children, and support for women from diverse communities.
- \$20.5 million investment to prevent and respond to workplace sexual harassment.







# BUDGET

## 2021-22 Summary

### Women's health

- \$354 million over four years for cervical and breast cancer, endometriosis and reproductive health.
- \$351.6 million to deliver diverse initiatives that cover maternal, sexual and reproductive health, ageing, chronic conditions, preventative health, and mental health.
- \$16.6 million over four years (plus \$4.2 million in 2025-26) to implement the National Women's Health Strategy across maternal, sexual and reproductive health including endometriosis.
- \$5.0 million for the Pelvic Pain Foundation of Australia to continue to deliver the PPEP-Talk across 140 schools.
- \$1.8 million to fund an increase in the number of pathologists and radiologists available to undertake stillbirth autopsies and investigations, as part of implementing the National Stillbirth Action and Implementation Plan.
- \$95.9 million to support women at risk of having a child with a serious genetic disorder by adding new services to the Medicare Benefits Schedule to fund pre-implantation genetic testing.
- \$22.0 million to reform gynaecology services funded by Medicare to ensure women receive best practice health care, including improving access and safety associated with IUD insertions and diagnostic hysteroscopy.
- \$83.3 million to the McGrath Foundation to support the recruitment, training and employment of breast care nurses. By 2022-23, the Foundation will employ 102 Commonwealth-funded breast care nurses across Australia to work within multidisciplinary teams coordinating care from diagnosis to treatment, free of charge.
- \$6.6 million to the Breast Cancer Network Australia to operate accessible outreach services including for regional and remote communities.

### Women's security

- \$1.9 billion in measures to support women's economic security.
- \$1.7 billion investment to improve the affordability of childcare for Australian families to boost women's workforce participation.
- Changes to superannuation to help women boost their retirement savings.
- The 2021-22 Budget is investing in the aged care workforce, providing further investment for women to enter science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers,





# BUDGET

## 2021-22 Summary

expanding the Career Revive program and providing more support to women seeking education and career guidance.

- The successful Women's Leadership and Development Program is being expanded by \$38.3 million to advance women's leadership.
- An additional 33,800 training places through JobTrainer will enable existing and new care workers to improve their qualifications. Support for the aged care workforce will include financial support for registered nurses, of which 86 per cent are women.

## Welfare

- \$9.7 billion to reduce out-of-pocket child care costs for families.
- \$1.7 billion over five years to further reduce the cost of child care for over 250,000 families with multiple young children and to boost workforce participation. Families with more than one child under the age of five in child care will have 95 per cent of their out-of-pocket expenses for second and subsequent children paid, from mid-2022.
- A new family home guarantee is also targeting women and single parents with a program to support up to 10,000 single parents buy a home with a deposit of only 2%.

## Education

- Private higher education providers will receive a \$53 million support package in the budget, as the sector continues to be affected by national border closures.
- It is anticipated the government will extend the JobTrainer program providing free or low-fee courses targeting areas of skill shortages, including aged care, IT and childcare.
- The government will also offer further FEE-HELP loan fee exemptions for around 30,000 existing and prospective students until the end of the year, and reduce fee reporting requirements for providers.
- The government is also expanding the COVID-19 pandemic event visa to include tourism and hospitality. The visa, which is currently open to workers in critical sectors such as agriculture and health care, allows visa holders to work in the country for 12 months.



# BUDGET

## 2021-22 Summary

### COVID-19

- Additional \$1.9 billion investment in the vaccination program in the 2021-22 Budget. This includes funding to distribute and administer vaccines, record and monitor progress, communicate key public messages and support states and territories in the roll-out.