



Catholic  
Health  
Australia



## Federal Budget 2022-23 Member briefing Health and hospitals

This pre-election Budget abandons *budget repair* rhetoric and will see \$8.6 billion flow to voters through cash payments, tax rebates and a temporary reduction in the fuel excise. Government's expected revenue has increased more than \$120 billion over the forward estimates compared to MYEFO forecasts, with the government adding \$36 billion of extra spending into the economy over the same time, on top of what was already announced in MYEFO.

Health and hospitals didn't see any major unexpected announcements nor any significant funding changes. The health funding announced represents planned growth and expected recurrent spending rather than significant new injections of funds. Telehealth has been made "universal and permanent" with Health Minister Hunt noting this is a "key landmark reform."

The health budget for 2022-23 is \$105.8 billion, which is about 17% of total government expenditure.

### Health

The Budget is silent on prostheses reform and the funding of implementation costs for hospitals with ICUs under the Critical Infrastructure Bill.

#### Cost of living

- The fuel excise will be cut by 50% for 6 months
- \$250 will be given to pensioners and recipients of welfare
- The Low and Middle Income Tax Offset has been increased by \$420 to \$1500 this financial year (however the offset has not been continued at all for the next financial year)

#### Primary Care

- The 10 year Primary Care Plan has been recognised with some corresponding primary health care spending announcements, but the Plan has not been fully funded
- \$108.5m over 2 years for public dental services
- \$56m in the next financial year for PHNs to commission after hours services
- Telehealth has been permanent, further details are pending
- Primary Care clinicians to co-design a system of voluntary patient registration

### **Medicare, MBS and PBS changes**

- \$2.4b for additions to the PBS, including the widely publicised Trodelvy drug used to treat a rare form of breast cancer and Zolgensma for spinal muscular atrophy
- \$525m in the reduction of the PBS Safety Net thresholds by about \$82
- \$58.3m in funding (announced earlier in the week) to support women with pelvic pain and endometriosis
- \$23m to respond to the National Stillbirth Action and Implementation Plan
- \$66m to support publicly funded MRI provision in rural and remote areas
- \$81.2m for carrier screening for cystic fibrosis, spinal muscular atrophy and fragile X syndrome

### **Private health insurance**

- No change to the PHI rebate tiers will mean bracket creep continues to result in a decline in the real cost of the rebate to government over time

### **Mental Health**

- Additional funding is allocated to progress Stage 2 reforms under the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan
- Headline mental health spending figures are very high, but new funding announcements came to \$303.2m, new initiatives include:
  - o \$52.3m for Lifeline
  - o \$31.2m for residents in flood affected areas
  - o \$47m for suicide prevention including PHNs to have a 'suicide prevention leader' to commission locally appropriate intervention
  - o \$20m grants program for community based programs in the treatment of eating disorders

### **Covid-19**

- The vaccine injury indemnity scheme has been extended to cover children under 5 (vaccines are yet to be green lighted for this age group)
- \$4.2 billion of previously announced funding for ongoing pandemic measures including
  - o \$1b for the continued vaccine rollout
  - o \$2.6b to replenish medical stockpiles of PPR and rapid antigen tests

### **Hospitals**

- \$1.1b over 2 years to support the emergency response to COVID 19, including:
  - o \$984m to extend activities under the National Partnership on COVID 19 Response
- \$24.1m support organ matching and clinical quality registries

## Workforce

- \$14.9m over 2 years to provide additional scholarships for the medical workforce
- \$224.4m over 4 years to improve access to health services and support primary care doctors in rural and remote areas
  - o \$99.3m to attract medical students to regional health
  - o \$36.2m to fund 2 new University Departments of Rural Health in Western Australia to support rural medical training

## Preventative Health

- The [National Preventive Health Strategy 2021- 2030](#) was released in December 2021, but was unfunded at that time. The Budget includes \$30.1m over 4 years to fund health initiatives from the Strategy including
  - o \$9.7m to improve physical activity
  - o \$8.6m for blood borne viruses and sexually transmitted infections
- \$170.2m of additional funding for preventative health initiatives such as:
  - o \$40.7m to address the Covid-19 induced reduction in screening
  - o \$31.6m to extend projects under the National Ice Action Strategy
  - o \$26.9m to establish a National Allergy Council

## Palliative care

- \$7.5m for the Palliative Care Service Navigation Pilot to trial models for improved coordination of palliative care
- \$34.8m in already announced funding to improve access to palliative care for residents in aged care facilities
- \$7.5m to support the construction of a dedicated respite and hospice care facility for children with life limiting conditions, their families and carers in Western Australia

## Research

- A further \$1.3b in the Medical Research Future Fund 10yr investment plan bringing total investment to \$6.3b and providing funding across:
  - o \$2.1b (\$604.8m of which is new) for medical discoveries to be translated into practice
  - o \$1.5b (\$114.9m of which is new) for researchers to “tackle significant challenges through investment, leadership and collaboration”
  - o \$1.4b (\$117.4m of which is new) for the funding of innovative treatments and support of clinical trials
- \$5m to the Australian Partnership for Preparedness Research on Infectious Disease Emergencies, to support national coordination of efforts across academic institutions
- \$423.7m to support specialist facilities and research to fight and prevent cancer, including:
  - o \$375.6m to contribute to the establishment of the Comprehensive Cancer Centre in Perth

- \$28.1m to establish Genomics Australia to drive the translation and integration of genomics into the Australian healthcare system
- \$15million to the Australian Cancer Research Foundation Cancer Genome Facility to establish a cancer genomics laboratory, operating in partnership with SA Pathology
- \$5m to the Pancreatic Centre at Epworth to diagnose and treat pancreatic cancer, undertake research and develop education materials

#### **Vulnerable populations**

- \$1.3b over 6 years for initiatives to reduce all forms of family, domestic and sexual violence, including
  - \$226m targeted to preventing gendered violence
  - \$328.2m targeted at early intervention and prevention
  - \$489.1m for women and children experiencing family, domestic or sexual violence
- \$10.6m for a preventive health communication campaign targeted at culturally and linguistically diverse populations

#### **Resources**

To access the 2022-23 Budget papers: <https://budget.gov.au/2022-23/content/documents.htm>

To access the Health Portfolio Budget resources:  
<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/budget-2022-23>

**Catholic Health Australia**

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