

The 2017-2018 Budget delivers a \$10 billion investment to support the Government's four pillars of the health system:

- Guaranteeing Medicare and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme
- Supporting hospitals
- Prioritising mental and preventative health
- Investing in medical research

The Budget is supported by five compacts with:

- Australian Medical Association
- Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
- Pharmacy Guild
- Medicines Australia
- Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association

Guaranteeing Medicare

- Gradual restoration of Medicare over the next three years
- 1 July 2017 - bulk billing incentive for GPs increased for children under 16 and concession card holders
- 1 July 2018 - standard GP consultations and specialist consultations
- 1 July 2019 - specialist procedures and allied health services
- 1 July 2020 - diagnostic imaging services for mammography, computed tomography, fluoroscopy and interventional radiology.
- Maintaining bulk billing incentive for pathology and diagnostic imaging
- Maintain current Medicare Safety Net
- Medicare Guarantee Fund from 1 July 2017
- \$145m for After Hours PHN funding
- \$44.2m to continue MBS Review
- Health Care Home program.
- 200 practices announced last night to commence in October.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/hch-successful-applicants>

- Support for My Health Record following COAG Health Minister's agreement to opt-out model. \$374.2 million over two years for the national expansion.

Access to Medicines

- \$1.8 billion over 5 year compact with Medicines Australia to lower the cost of medicines
 - Support the uptake of generic and bio-similar medicines
 - Doctors to retain complete control of prescribing
 - Reinvestment in PBS
- \$825m for Community Pharmacies including \$600m for improved services to consumers, such as supporting Health Care Homes with medicine management

Supporting Hospitals

- An additional \$2.8 billion in Commonwealth funding to hospitals
- Transfer of Mersey Hospital to Tasmanian Government

Mental and Preventative Health

- \$80m for community psychosocial services for people who do not qualify for NDIS. Contingent on matched commitments from the states and territories.
- \$9.1 m for Tele-health for psychologists to support people in rural communities to access mental health services.
- \$130m for preventative health including
 - Heart Foundation Walk for Life
 - Preventative Health Research
 - Living Organ Donors program
 - Immunisation catch up and awareness programs
 - Continuous Glucose Monitoring for childhood diabetes
 - Rheumatic Fever prevention
 - Home Based Palliative Care

- \$152.6m investment in Cancer screening and \$78.8m for cancer research

Medical Research

- \$5 billion for medical research to 2020- 2021

Aged Care

- \$5.5 billion to extend funding for the Commonwealth Home Support program through
 - Meals on Wheels
 - Respite Care
 - Domestic assistance
 - Five major compacts

Business

- Extension of the small business instant asset write-off scheme allowing businesses with turnover up to \$10 million to immediately write off expenditure up to \$20,000 for a further year (originally due to finish on June 30, 2017).
- Confirmation of the Government's intention to reduce corporate tax rate to 25 per cent for all businesses.

National Disability Insurance Scheme

- The Government will establish the National Disability Insurance Scheme Savings Fund Special Account to assist in meeting the future costs of the NDIS. In 2017-18, \$2.1 billion will be credited to the fund
- The Government will legislate to increase the Medicare Levy by 0.5 percentage points to 2.5 per cent from 1 July 2019 to fully fund the NDIS. The Government will also provide \$209 million to establish an independent NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission.