

## **Extract from MYEFO statements on health**

The Government is committing record funding to health, with total spending expected to increase from \$80.2 billion in 2018-19 to \$85.2 billion in 2021-22. It is continuing to improve patient access to essential health care and affordable medicines, including through measures to strengthen primary care.

The Government is continuing to meet its commitment to list new medicines on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. This includes \$1.4 billion for new and amended listings, including new medicines to treat cystic fibrosis, familial hypercholesterolemia and non-small cell lung cancer, ensuring Australians continue to have access to affordable medicines.

Over the five years to 2018-19, Commonwealth funding to the states for public hospitals is expected to grow by more than 50 per cent. The Government is providing \$1.3 billion over four years from 2018-19 to establish a Community Health and Hospitals Program. The Program will fund projects and services to support patient care while reducing pressure on community and hospital services.

Under the program, the Government will partner with communities, the states, health and hospital service providers and research institutions to provide additional funding in four key areas:

- specialist hospital services such as cancer treatment, rural health and hospital infrastructure;
- drug and alcohol treatment;
- preventative, primary and chronic disease management; and
- mental health and palliative care.

To enhance primary care, the Government will introduce new Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) items, including \$110.7 million to provide best practice care to individuals with severe eating disorders, \$33.5 million to improve access to GPs in rural and remote areas, and \$98 million to improve access to GPs in residential aged care facilities. In addition, \$58.9 million will be provided for new and amended listings on the MBS, including new items for genetic testing for the diagnosis of Alport syndrome, obstetric Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) for pregnant women to allow investigation and diagnosis when fetal central nervous system abnormality is suspected, and for the mobile provision of x-rays to patients in residential aged care facilities. In addition, \$176.4 million will be provided for licences for an additional 30 Medicare-eligible MRI machines.

The Government will extend the Health Care Homes Trial for patients with chronic and complex conditions and establish a new wound management trial to test models of care for chronic wound management. A Neurological Nurse Specialist Pilot will be funded to improve access to specialised nursing care in the community for people living with neurological conditions.

The Government is committed to continuing to improve the mental health outcomes of Australians. Additional funding of \$56.7 million over four years from 2018-19 will be provided for Primary Health Networks to commission increased youth mental health

services from the *headspace* network. The Government has also announced a Productivity Commission inquiry into improving mental health to support economic participation and enhance productivity and economic growth.

### **Improving access to quality aged care**

The Government is continuing to invest in aged care, with total spending expected to reach a record \$23.5 billion in 2021-22.

This includes supporting older Australians to access quality aged care services and improving regulatory settings in the sector. An additional \$287.3 million has been provided to bring forward by one year to 2018-19 the release of 5,000 level 3 and 5,000 level 4 home care packages to connect more older Australians with high-level home care support.

The Government is also providing \$56.4 million to assist people in home care by reducing the maximum basic daily fee service providers can charge. In addition, the Government will provide \$111.2 million to increase the residential aged care viability and homeless supplements by 30 per cent to support people in residential aged care in regional, rural and remote areas of Australia and those at risk of homelessness.

The Government has established a Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety to examine the quality and safety of care provided to senior Australians in residential and home-based aged care and to young Australians with disabilities living in aged care. The Government will provide \$104.3 million over four years from 2018-19 for the Royal Commission and \$17.2 million over two years from 2018-19 to the Department of Health, the Australian Aged Care Quality Agency and the Australian Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission to support activities associated with the Royal Commission.