



Budget 2022–23

Australia's plan for a stronger future

Guaranteeing the
essential services

budget.gov.au





Budget

2022–23

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ISBN 978-1-925832-49-5

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Printed by CanPrint Communications Pty Ltd

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Guaranteeing the essentials

Since coming to office, the Government has delivered record levels of funding for health, aged care, education, and disability support.

We have also modernised and strengthened essential services, improving access for all Australians.

A strong economy guarantees the essential services which Australians rely on.

→ **Australia's plan for a stronger future guarantees the essential services by:**



Helping Australians with **temporary, targeted and responsible cost of living support**



Investing in a **world-leading COVID-19 health response**



Guaranteeing **Medicare, the NDIS and aged care**



Record investments in **hospitals and education**



Supporting **home ownership**



Delivering **affordable and reliable energy**



Guaranteeing the essentials



More than

55.9 million

COVID-19 vaccine doses administered nationally



\$42 billion

in direct health support since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic



The Government is supporting over **300,000** Australians into new or renovated homes through the **Home Guarantee Scheme, HomeBuilder** and the **First Home Super Saver Scheme**

The Government is providing **\$6.7 billion** over 4 years through the Indigenous Advancement Strategy for education, economic development, social participation, health, and safety



Over **330,000** veterans and dependants are receiving financial, health and wellbeing support



**Up to
20 weeks**

of fully flexible
Paid Parental Leave
for working families



Helping **6 million Australians**
in need to pay their **bills**



Over **100 million** telehealth services
have been provided to around
17 million Australians



218,000

older Australians have access
to a Home Care Package

Up by 25% since the end of 2020



Health investment has
grown from **\$62.2 billion**
in 2012–13 to a record
\$111.5 billion in 2021–22

Cost of living relief

Practical measures that make a difference

The invasion of Ukraine and the impacts of COVID-19 on supply chains is pushing up the cost of living.

To help ease cost of living pressures on households the Government has developed a new temporary, targeted, and responsible cost of living package.

A one-off cost of living tax offset

From 1 July this year, over 10 million individuals will benefit from a one-off \$420 cost of living tax offset. Together with the extension of the low and middle income tax offset for 2021-22, eligible taxpayers will see their tax reduced by up to \$1,500 for a single income household, or \$3,000 for a dual income household.

This builds on the estimated \$40 billion in tax relief flowing to households under the Personal Income Tax Plan since the start of the pandemic, easing cost of living pressures on households.

Cost of living relief at the petrol pump

High petrol prices exacerbated by the invasion of Ukraine are stretching households' budgets. To help ease the pressure on the hip pocket the Government will cut the fuel excise in half.

For the next 6 months, Australians will save 22.1 cents a litre in excise every time they fill up.

Savings at the bowser are expected to flow through to the majority of service stations and Australian consumers within a few weeks.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) will monitor petrol companies and distributors to make sure the excise reductions are passed on at the pump.

Supporting the 6 million Australians most in need

To help Australians most in need the Government is providing a new one-off, income tax-exempt payment of \$250.

More than half of those who will benefit are pensioners.

It will be paid automatically to all eligible pensioners, welfare recipients, veterans, and eligible concession card holders in April 2022.



This payment will help
6 million people, at a cost
of **\$1.5 billion**

This is on top of the \$1.8 billion in higher income support payments from existing indexation arrangements. Income support payments increased by 2.1 per cent in March 2022, benefiting almost 5 million Australians. The Age Pension, Disability Support Pension and Carer Payment rates increased by more than \$20 a fortnight for singles and \$30 a fortnight for couples. They will receive a similar increase again

in September. Payments are regularly increased to help shield people from the rising cost of living.

This assistance builds on the hip pocket relief the Government is providing through tax cuts, child care assistance and reduced electricity prices.

Taking the pressure off Australians with cost of living support is part of the Government's plan for a stronger future.



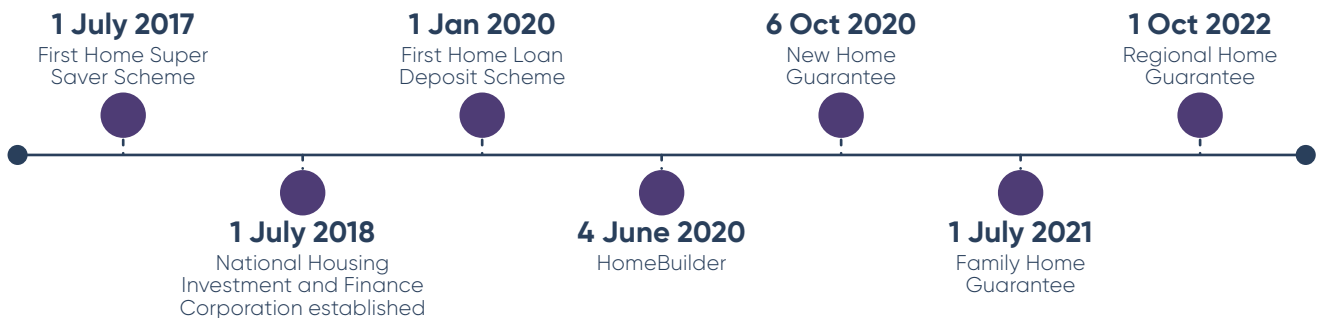
The **Long family** fills up two cars every week, one with a 40 litre tank and the other with a 60 litre tank. They will save up to **\$25 a week in excise and GST, or more than \$600** over the next 6 months.

Laying a pathway to home ownership

Helping Australians own a home sooner

The Government has supported almost 60,000 aspiring home buyers into the housing market under the Home Guarantee Scheme. To build on its success to date 50,000 places will be made available per year under the Home Guarantee Scheme to support more Australians into home ownership, more than double the current number of places available.

A new Regional Home Guarantee will be established while the number of places under the Family Home Guarantee, supporting single parents, will double.



Cassie and Eamon rent in Wagga Wagga NSW and are looking to purchase their first home. They found the perfect house for \$400,000 but have struggled to save enough for the standard deposit (20 per cent, or \$80,000) while paying rent.

With the First Home Guarantee, and after being approved for a loan by a participating lender, Cassie and Eamon will be able to move into their own home sooner with a deposit of **only \$20,000**.





Cathy and Anthony each earn \$95,000 per year and want to buy a home. Every year they each salary sacrifice \$12,500 of pre-tax income into their superannuation accounts. After 4 years of saving, they have \$43,245 each or \$86,490 combined to put towards their first home. This is **\$20,946 (or 30 per cent)** more than if they were using a standard savings account with 0.05 per cent interest per annum.



Supporting housing construction

The Government is providing an estimated \$2.7 billion to help Australians build a new home or substantially renovate an existing one through HomeBuilder. HomeBuilder is expected to support the construction of around 96,000 new homes and substantial renovations to around 22,000 homes, representing over \$40 billion in residential construction activity.

Success of HomeBuilder as at 28 February 2022:



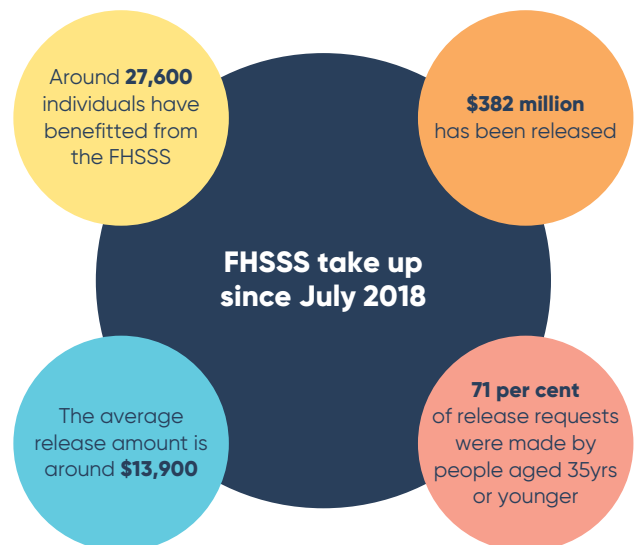
Supported building around **76,000** new Australian homes



Supported major renovations to around **15,000** Australian homes

Boosting savings for first home buyers

First home buyers will be able to own a home sooner through the First Home Super Saver Scheme (FHSSS). As announced in the 2021-22 Budget, the maximum number of voluntary contributions that can be released under the FHSSS will be increased from \$30,000 to \$50,000 from 1 July 2022. Between 1 July 2018 and 28 February 2022, the ATO has released FHSSS amounts to around 27,600 individuals. This increase will fast-track home ownership for first home buyers.



Reliable and affordable energy

Safeguarding Australia's economic security by delivering future energy needs

The Government is keeping wholesale electricity prices low to deliver affordable and secure energy. Household electricity costs have dropped 8 per cent over the past two financial years, while small business costs have dropped 10 per cent.

On completion, Snowy 2.0 will deliver 2000MW of renewable storage to provide backup power to renewables. The Government's support for Marinus Link and Battery of the Nation projects will also connect Tasmania's reliable and renewable generation with the mainland.

The Government is helping lower energy prices with \$148.6 million to support more investment in affordable and reliable power.





The ACCC's latest electricity inquiry report released in December 2021 shows household electricity costs have fallen **8 per cent (or \$128 per year)** and small business costs have fallen **10 per cent** over two financial years (2019–20 and 2020–21).

Residential electricity costs down



Small business costs down

8%

10%

These measures mean hundreds of thousands of Australian families and small businesses are paying less on their electricity bills, with consumers better able to compare electricity retail offers and energy companies now required to pass on savings when the supply cost of electricity decreases.

The Government is maintaining Australia's long-term fuel supply to protect our economic security in an uncertain international environment. The Fuel Security Services Payment has locked in the ongoing operations of our local refineries and reinforced our national sovereignty. With \$260 million also invested to increase our diesel storage by 40 per cent, these measures will boost fuel security, create jobs, and keep fuel prices among the lowest in the OECD.

Affordable and reliable energy is part of the Government's plan for a stronger future.





VACCINES

Over **95%** of Australians aged 16 years of age and older are fully vaccinated, one of the **highest rates in the world**

A world-leading COVID-19 health response

Keeping Australians safe and positioning the economy for a strong recovery

The Government has invested more than \$42 billion to support the health system and withstand one of the greatest economic shocks since the Great Depression. This includes an additional \$6.0 billion in this budget for the COVID-19 health response, including to support the Winter Response Plan.



- Over **55.9 million** vaccine doses delivered nationally
- Over **12.6 million** Australians over 16 years have received boosters
- Over **93.0%** of eligible aged care residents have received boosters
- Over **79.7%** of 12–15-year-olds are fully vaccinated
- Over **51.8%** of 5–11-year-olds have received a first dose

A forward looking COVID-19 vaccination plan

Our purchase of a diverse portfolio of vaccine doses – more than 250 million – ensures a secure supply.

To sustain Australia’s high rates of vaccination we are investing \$1.0 billion to extend the COVID-19 vaccine rollout program.

| Vaccines Secured | Number of doses (in millions) |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Comirnaty (Pfizer) | 126 |
| Spikevax (Moderna) | 26 |
| Nuvaxovid (Novavax) | 51 |
| Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) | 53.8 |



Winter Response Plan

The Government's \$6.0 billion investment in the COVID-19 health response in this Budget will support the Winter Response Plan. With this plan, the Government is ensuring we are prepared to manage COVID-19, influenza, and other respiratory diseases.

The Plan focuses on protecting vulnerable Australians at risk of serious illness, as well as continuing Australia's vaccine roll-out.

The Winter Response Plan will support the transition to living with COVID-19 while prioritising both health and economic outcomes.





Preventing severe illness

Caring for Australians during COVID-19

Access to COVID-19 treatments

To protect Australians against severe disease from COVID-19, the Government has secured additional doses of safe and effective COVID-19 treatments. To further improve accessibility to COVID-19 treatments we have made Lagevrio® available through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

COVID-19 hospital capacity

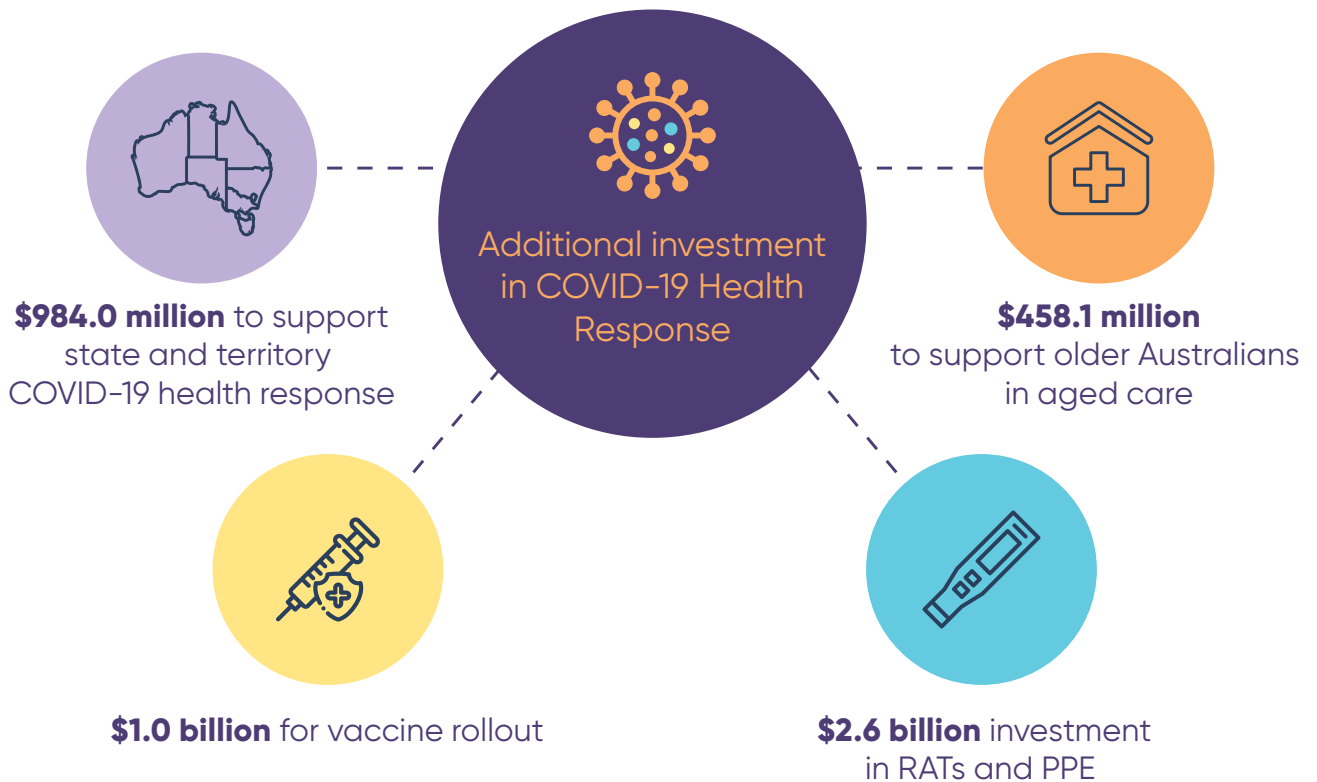
To make sure public hospitals have capacity over winter, the Government is providing \$984.0 million to extend the National Partnership on COVID-19 Response.

To take pressure off hospitals, the Government is extending the GP-led Respiratory Clinics program.

| Treatment | Treatment courses [^] |
|------------|--------------------------------|
| Paxlovid® | 500,000* |
| Veklury® | 69,000 |
| Lagevrio®# | 300,000 |
| Xevudy® | 130,000 |
| Evusheld® | 36,000 |
| Ronapreve® | 15,000 |

*with more supply in train. ^around. #now listed on the PBS

\$42 billion invested in COVID-19 health support since the beginning of the pandemic, including for health system capacity and prevention of serious disease from COVID-19



John is a 76-year-old man, who has severe asthma and BMI over 30. John got a PCR test after developing moderate COVID-19 symptoms. After testing positive to COVID-19, as John is at high risk of developing severe disease due to his multiple underlying health conditions, he is referred to his local hospital by his state Health Department to receive an intravenous infusion of Xevudy® (sotrovimab), which was supplied by the Australian Government through the National Medical Stockpile. John returns home the same day and recovers from COVID-19 without needing to be hospitalised.

The Government's ongoing investment in COVID-19 testing and treatments is helping to protect vulnerable Australians like John from COVID-19 and will reduce pressure on our health system over winter.



Building on our record investment in health care

Modernising our health system

The Government is investing in a world class system and improving access to affordable, quality health care to help to provide the best possible health outcomes for all Australians.

In total, our investment in health has grown from \$62.2 billion in 2012–13 to a record \$111.5 billion in 2021–22.

The Australian Government’s investment in public hospitals has grown from \$13.3 billion in 2012–13 to \$25.0 billion in 2021–22 and is expected to exceed \$32.6 billion by 2025–26. This enables access to critical hospital treatment for all Australians, free of charge.

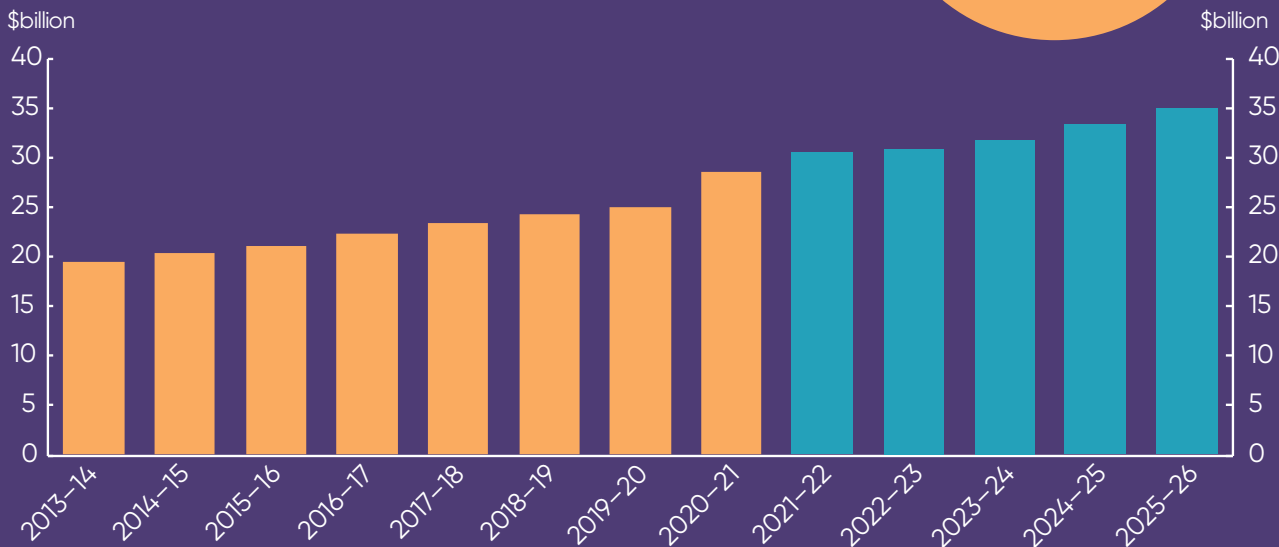
Guaranteeing Medicare

Medicare provides all Australians with access to lifesaving and preventive health care services for free or at a lower cost. The Government’s total investment in Medicare is expected to rise to \$35.0 billion by 2025–26, up from \$18.5 billion in 2012–13. Since 2012–13 spending on Medicare services has risen from \$817 per person to \$1,069 per person in 2020–21.

The Medicare bulk-billing rate reached **83.5 per cent** at the end of 2021, up from **77.0 per cent** at the end of 2012

Over **31.0 million** PCR tests for COVID-19 funded through Medicare to date

Investment in Medicare services





Rosie is a 16-year-old student who is applying for her own Medicare card. She can do this online without going into a shopfront. Rosie can use the Medicare Express Plus app or apply through her Medicare Online Account via her MyGov account. Over **240,000** Australians have successfully obtained their Medicare card through the online application process since June 2021.

The Government is committed to continuous improvement to Medicare. Since 2016, we have implemented 699 Medicare Benefits Schedule Review recommendations, to ensure Australians can access quality health care. In this Budget, the Government is committing an additional \$368.0 million to update Medicare services.

The Government has built on the success of telehealth during COVID-19 and made it a permanent part of our health care system. To date, over 100 million services have been delivered to around 17 million Australians.

From 1 July 2022, concessional patients will reach the PBS Safety Net with around 12 fewer scripts



Patrick is a self-funded retiree who suffers from severe atopic dermatitis, a chronic inflammatory skin condition. Patrick is eligible for a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card. Without access to treatment through the PBS, Patrick could be paying \$27,000 per year. With subsidisation of Rinvoq® (upadacitinib) on the PBS, Patrick will pay **only \$6.80 per script**. From 1 July 2022, Patrick will save even more when his PBS Safety Net is lowered from \$326.40 to \$244.80, after which he won't have to pay for further prescriptions.

The listing of Rinvoq® is expected to benefit **3,600 Australians**.

More affordable medicines

From 1 July 2022, the Government is again reducing the PBS Safety Net thresholds, from \$1,542.10 to \$1,457.10 for general patients and from \$326.40 to \$244.80 for concessional patients. Around 2.4 million Australians will benefit from reducing the concessional and general PBS Safety Net thresholds. The Medicare bulk-billing rate reached 83.5 per cent at the end of 2021, up from 76.9 per cent at the end of 2013.

In this budget, the Government is also providing a further \$2.4 billion to support access to cost effective medicines through the PBS. This includes treatments for cystic fibrosis, Spinal Muscular Atrophy and bowel cancer.

The Government has approved more than **2,800** new or amended listings on the PBS through an investment of **\$15 billion** since 2013.





Modernising the mental health system

Delivering more accessible, high quality mental health services

The Government is transforming mental health care to achieve a more compassionate and caring system with a greater focus on

prevention supports. It will ensure that all Australians can access the right care, whenever and wherever they need it.

The Government is delivering a mental health system equipped to act early and safeguard the wellbeing of all Australians. Its **\$2.3 billion record investment** in the 2021–22 Budget is:



Increasing **digital mental health services**, such as Head to Health



Improving **outcomes and evidence-based delivery** by funding research in mental health and suicide



Establishing more **community-based, multidisciplinary treatment centres**



Building the **resilience and wellbeing of children** through education and support for parents and carers



Providing **group therapy** through Better Access, enabling parents and carers to participate in care



Strengthening **awareness and community capacity** to prevent suicide



Addressing **stigma**



Upskilling the **workforce**

This investment is on top of the Government’s mental health supports for Australians who have been impacted by bushfire, COVID-19, floods, and other traumatic events.

Five Pillars of Support

Prevention and Early Intervention



Suicide Prevention



Treatment



Supporting the Vulnerable



Workforce and Governance



This Budget builds on last year's record **\$2.3 billion** mental health investment

This Budget builds on the **Government's record investment** by a further **\$547.0 million** to support those most at-risk

\$42.7 million for a national rollout of **suicide prevention initiatives** at the local level

\$52.3 million for **Lifeline** mental health services to meet additional demand

\$17.8 million for **mental health support to multicultural communities** across Australia, enabling refugees and culturally and linguistically diverse communities to access care

\$15.1 million for case conferencing between healthcare providers to enable **coordinated, multidisciplinary care**

\$206.5 million to continue and expand mental health services nationwide for around **2,800 young people experiencing severe and complex mental illness**



Investing
\$375.6 million
 to establish a
 world-leading
 cancer centre in
 Western Australia

Supporting a healthier Australia

Encouraging active and healthy communities

The Government is supporting Australians to access health screening and early intervention services under its *National Preventive Health Strategy 2021-2030*. This includes taking action to address delayed or missed health appointments because of the pandemic and leveraging the next green and gold decade of major sporting events to involve the community in physical activity.

An active Australia is key to the Government's vision under our national health and fitness plan, *Sports 2030*. We are building strong and healthy

communities by bringing Australians together through sport and physical activity.

Ensuring Australians in regional areas can access world class healthcare continues to be a Government priority. Building on the *Stronger Rural Health Strategy*, this Budget will commit \$290.4 million in additional funding, including to:

- train more health care workers in rural areas
- continue our support for aeromedical services
- increase access to magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

This Budget provides



\$79.6 million to continue the Sporting Schools Program, which has helped keep **12 million kids** active since its launch in 2015



\$10.3 million for sporting organisations to address barriers to **participation and promote physical activity**. The Participation Grants program has supported over half a million Australians to engage in community sport since 2018-19



\$150.3 million to support medical training in rural and remote Australia



\$66.0 million to extend Medicare rebates to all magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machines in regional and remote locations to increase access



\$31.6 million to continue 19 projects supporting people with drug and alcohol addiction as part of the **National Ice Action Strategy**



\$26.9 million to help people with allergies navigate the health system and improve our understanding of life-threatening allergies

Women's health and wellbeing

Improving health outcomes for women and girls

This year's Budget further supports the National Women's Health Strategy 2020–2030 by providing an additional \$330.6 million.

We are providing funding to establish a National Women's Health Advisory Council and are making additional investments to support a range of initiatives, including:

- increasing the awareness of cardiovascular disease in women
- enhanced bereavement support for families who have experienced stillbirth or miscarriage.

1 in 9 Australian women are affected by endometriosis, which can affect women's health, fertility, education, and employment outcomes.

The Government is committing \$16.4 million over 4 years from 2022–23 to support the establishment of endometriosis and pelvic pain GP clinics in primary care settings.

To support the development of an Endometriosis Management Plan to be used in primary care settings to support patients, the Government is providing \$5.1 million over 3 years from 2022–23. This will complement the establishment of endometriosis and pelvic pain GP clinics as well as support GP and nurse education.

The Budget also provides funding for breast and cervical cancer screening. Women who missed or delayed breast screening because of COVID-19 will be able to catch-up, with the Government providing \$9.7 million over two years from 2022–23 in surge capacity for BreastScreen Australia.



Supporting quality aged care

Record funding so older Australians can access high quality aged care when they need it

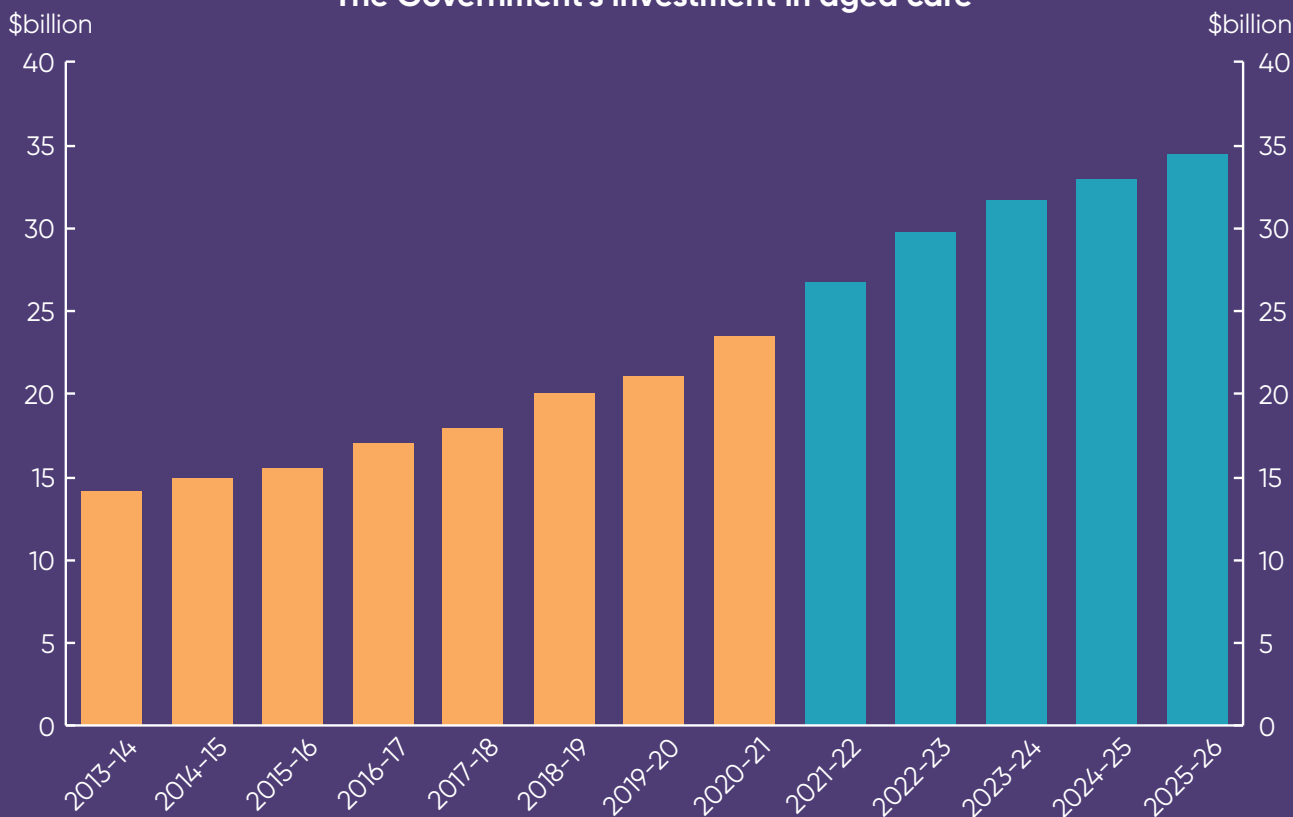
Since coming to Government, funding for aged care has doubled.

In last year's budget the Government outlined a new, 5-year, \$17.7 billion plan for the sector.



Comprehensive reform to ensure older Australians are **treated with respect, care and dignity**

The Government's investment in aged care





More Australians will have support to **stay in their own home** for longer

The plan included new home care packages, training places, respite services, retention bonuses and infrastructure upgrades.

Under this plan, 40,000 home care packages, almost 34,000 additional training places,

7,000 new personal care workers and 8,400 respite services will be rolled out from this calendar year.

A high-quality aged care sector is part of the Government's plan for a stronger future.



218,000 older Australians have access to a Home Care Package – up by **25%** since the end of 2020



National Aged Care Advisory Group and **Council of Elders** established to provide advice on reforms



Working to implement a new support at home program



Reporting of **care staffing minutes** commenced at facility level



\$10 per resident per day funding uplift in residential care, improving food and nutrition



Workforce Advisory Service established



The Government is announcing an additional **\$468.3 million** in this Budget, bringing the total response to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety to **\$18.8 billion**

More support for the aged care sector

Guaranteeing quality care for older Australians

Supporting senior Australians

\$345.7 million to improve medication management services in residential aged care facilities

\$20.1 million to progress the roll out of the new Australian National Aged Care Classification (AN-ACC) funding model in residential aged care, and to support facilities in the transition

\$22.1 million to trial new models of multidisciplinary outreach care

Supporting aged care workers

\$215.3 million to support aged care workers with bonuses of up to \$800

\$50.4 million will fund 4,000 training places for nurses to deliver vaccination services to aged care residents and staff

\$37.6 million to establish grants for up to 2,907 training places in infection prevention and control for qualified nurses

Supporting aged care providers

\$6.9 million to support co-operatives and other collaborative business models access the aged, disability and veterans' care sectors.

Providing **Personal Protective Equipment** (such as masks, gloves and face shields) and **Rapid Antigen Tests** to aged care facilities from the National Medical Stockpile

\$124.9 million for more funding under the COVID-19 Aged Care Support Program Extension

Ending violence against women and children

An Australia where women and children are free from violence

The 2022–23 Budget commits a further \$1.3 billion to contribute to the national efforts to end all forms of violence against women and children. This builds on the Government's funding of \$1.1 billion for women's safety provided in the 2021–22 Budget.

The Government, along with states and territories, is finalising the next National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032.

National leadership

The Government is providing national leadership to increase coordination and collaboration. A new Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission was announced in November 2021 to oversee the delivery of the next National Plan.

'Addressing all forms of gender-based violence, including domestic, family and sexual violence, must be a priority for all Australians to achieve our shared vision of a community free of violence against women and children.'

Statement from 2021 National Summit on Women's Safety

Prevention



Investment in prevention is the key to stopping violence before it starts. The Government continues its leadership role on prevention by investing a further \$222.6 million for a range of national prevention and awareness activities to address the drivers of violence, including for data and evidence.

Early intervention



Appropriate early interventions are critical to support women and families experiencing, or at risk of, violence. Funding of \$328.2 million will enable a range of interventions to both address early signs of violence and prevent violence from escalating.

Response



Response measures are targeted at providing immediate support to victim-survivors and to hold perpetrators of violence to account. \$480.1 million is being provided for a range of services and programs that respond to victim-survivors who have experienced or are at risk of violence, including through increased emergency accommodation.

Recovery



Recovery efforts are critical to supporting women and children's long-term safety and economic security. Funding of \$290.9 million will support women and children's recovery and address trauma, including through improvements to the family law and health systems.



Supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women

The Government is committed to hearing and including the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in the design of a dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan. An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Council on Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence has been established and will support the development of this Action Plan.

Safe and respectful workplaces

Preventing and responding to sexual harassment in the workplace requires commitment from governments, employers, organisations, and individuals. Building on previous commitments, the Government is providing additional funding of \$3.4 million to further support the Government's response to the Respect@Work report, the *Roadmap for Respect: Preventing and Responding to Sexual Harassment in Australian Workplaces*. To date, the Government has committed \$66.5 million and has fully funded or fully implemented 42 of the 55 recommendations of the Respect@Work report, with work underway on the Government's response to all recommendations.

Every workplace should be **safe and respectful**

*Statement of Acknowledgment
by the Parliamentary Cross-Party
Leadership Taskforce*





Strong investment in education and training

Ensuring students are equipped with skills for the future

In the 2022-23 Budget, the Government is investing a further \$228.5 million to improve educational outcomes of school students. This includes \$29.4 million over 4 years from 2022-23 to support students in regional and remote Australia. A new Commonwealth Regional Scholarship program will support students from lower-socio-economic families in regional and remote Australia through scholarships of up to \$15,000 a year for 3 years.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander boarding school students in regional and remote communities will also continue to benefit from the Indigenous Boarding Schools Grants Program, which will be extended for a further year.

More funding for preschools, schools and higher education are part of the Government's plan for a stronger future.



\$137.3 billion for higher education since 2014



\$146.9 billion in recurrent funding for schools since 2014



\$42.3 billion on skills, including **\$13.3 billion** to support apprenticeships and traineeships, since mid-2013

The Government has **nearly doubled** its recurrent funding for schools since 2014

2014

2022

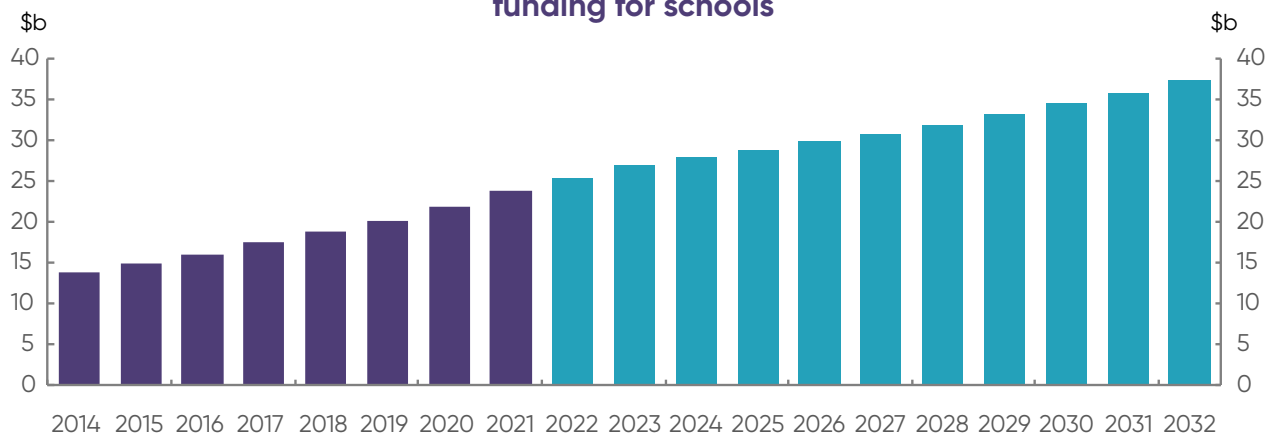
\$13.7b



\$25.3b

The Government is investing record funding of **\$25.3 billion** in 2022 to ensure all school students have access to a high-quality education

Commonwealth recurrent funding for schools



ReBoot initiatives will build life and employment skills in disadvantaged young people. ReBoot is expected to support **5,000 young people** at high risk of becoming long-term unemployed



Better access to child care and early childhood education

The Government is providing record levels of funding for child care. Government expenditure on child care has grown from \$6.2 billion in 2013-14 to a forecast \$10.3 billion in 2021-22. This increased investment improves child care access and affordability for more than 1.3 million children and their families.

Building on the additional \$1.7 billion investment in the 2021-22 Budget to make child care even more affordable, this Budget provides a further \$19.4 million for child care. This funding will support the establishment of up to 20 new services in remote and regional areas where there is limited access to, or no child care.

Acknowledging the impact of COVID-19 on critical child care services, the Government provided approximately \$3.2 billion in targeted support since the start of the pandemic to assist families and help keep child care services open and staff employed during COVID-19 lockdowns.

The Government has also ensured the child care sector's viability in the face of the Omicron variant and recent floods in parts of New South Wales and Queensland.

All preschool age children will be supported to access at least 15 hours a week of quality learning, as part of the Government's \$2.0 billion Preschool Reform Funding Agreement.

Providing fully flexible Paid Parental Leave for families

Increasing choice and flexibility for working families to manage work and care

The Government is investing \$346.1 million over 5 years to enhance Paid Parental Leave (PPL) for families. The Government is introducing changes that will provide families increased flexibility to decide what is best for them in managing working and care.

The current Dad and Partner Pay Scheme will be rolled into Parental Leave Pay to create a single scheme. Up to 20 weeks of fully flexible leave will be able to be shared between eligible working parents, according to their preferences. Eligible single parents will also benefit as they will be able to access an additional two weeks of Paid Parental Leave.

The Government is also broadening the income test to have an additional household income threshold of \$350,000 per year, if eligible. This will particularly benefit women who are the main breadwinner.

These changes will provide fairer, more equal access to PPL for working mums and dads. The increased eligibility for financial support for working parents will further help families with children, as well as cost of living pressures. Enhanced Paid Parental Leave for Families builds on the Government's commitment to removing barriers to women's workforce participation.



Alex and Kevin had their third child 3 months ago. Under the new PPL income testing arrangements, Alex who is a lawyer and the higher earner in the family on an annual income of \$160,000 a year, will be eligible to receive PPL. She has had time off from work to recover from birth and bond with her baby and wants to return to work two days a week. Kevin, a teacher who earns \$83,000 a year, wants to take leave from his work two days a week to have the benefits of bonding with his baby and to support his partner's career. Under the enhanced PPL, Alex and Kevin – who both meet the income, work and residency tests – can share PPL entitlements on a fully flexible basis. Alex and Kevin consult with their employers to set up these working arrangements and then advise Services Australia. They will be able to claim or change flexible Parental Leave days online.



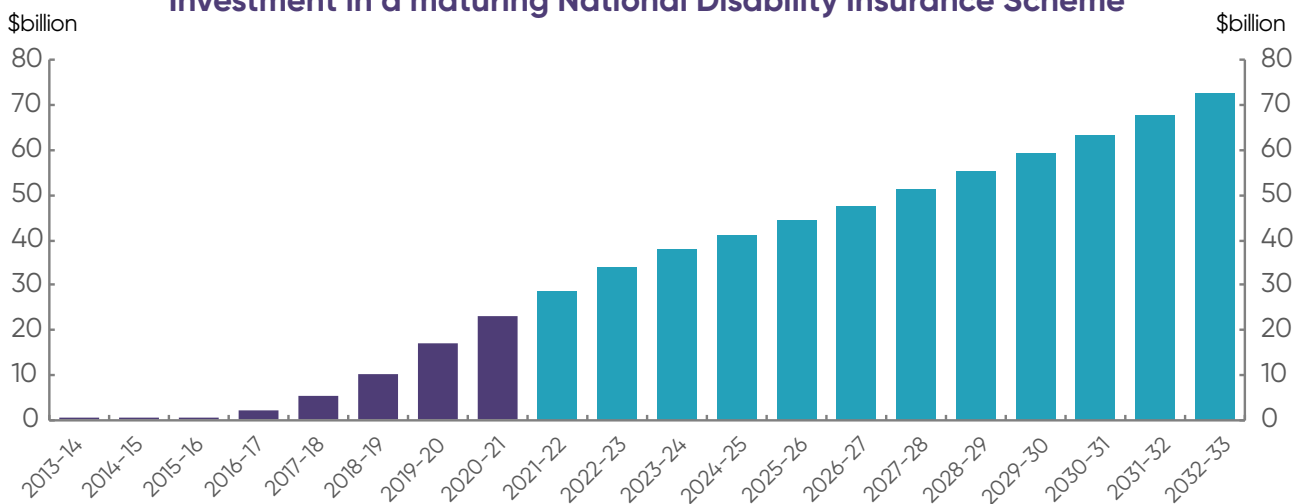
Improving the lives of people with disability

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) has changed the lives of 500,000 Australians. Funding for the NDIS is guaranteed. In the past year, the Government has provided an additional \$39.6 billion over 4 years to meet the support costs of participants.

The NDIS provides funding directly to individuals based on their goals and the support they need.

A fully-funded NDIS is part of the Government's plan for a stronger economy.

Investment in a maturing National Disability Insurance Scheme



Award-winning dancer **Michelle Ryan** has Neuro Myelitis Optica, a rare neurological disease affecting her mobility. With support from the NDIS, including a power assist wheelchair, she is **full-time artistic director** of Restless Dance Theatre.

'The NDIS has changed my ability to continue to work in a way that I wanted to, and to keep my independence.'



Photo: Maxx Corkindale



INFORMATION, LINKAGES AND CAPACITY BUILDING (ILC)

The Government has provided over **\$310 million** in ILC funding for community projects that benefit Australians with disability.

The latest grants provide **\$20 million** over two years for Building Employer Confidence and Inclusion in Disability projects.

As at 31 December 2021, more than **280,000 current NDIS participants** are receiving supports for the first time

'People with disability deserve to have the same opportunities as all other Australians.'

Senator the Hon Anne Ruston, 3 December 2021

Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031

The Government has made an initial investment over the life of the Strategy to drive improved outcomes for people with disability.



\$76.8 million for Targeted Action Plans, with **\$21.7 million** provided for Employment, Safety, Early Childhood and Community Attitudes in the first three years

- Employment and financial security
- Inclusive homes and communities
- Safety, rights and justice
- Personal and community support
- Education and learning
- Health and wellbeing
- Community attitudes



\$72 million for reporting, data and research to show what change is being achieved for people with disability



\$10.1 million to engage people with disability in the implementation of the Strategy



\$81.2 million to continue the Disability Information Gateway

Supporting Indigenous Australians

Overcoming the inequality experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

For the first time, the National Agreement on Closing the Gap has been developed in genuine partnership between Australian Governments and the Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations. Our goal is for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to achieve life outcomes equal to all Australians.

The Government is providing an additional **\$1.5 billion** for initiatives that are specifically targeted at Indigenous Australians including:



Critical services in remote communities in the Northern Territory
\$173.2 million



Securing free use of the **Aboriginal Flag**
\$20.2 million



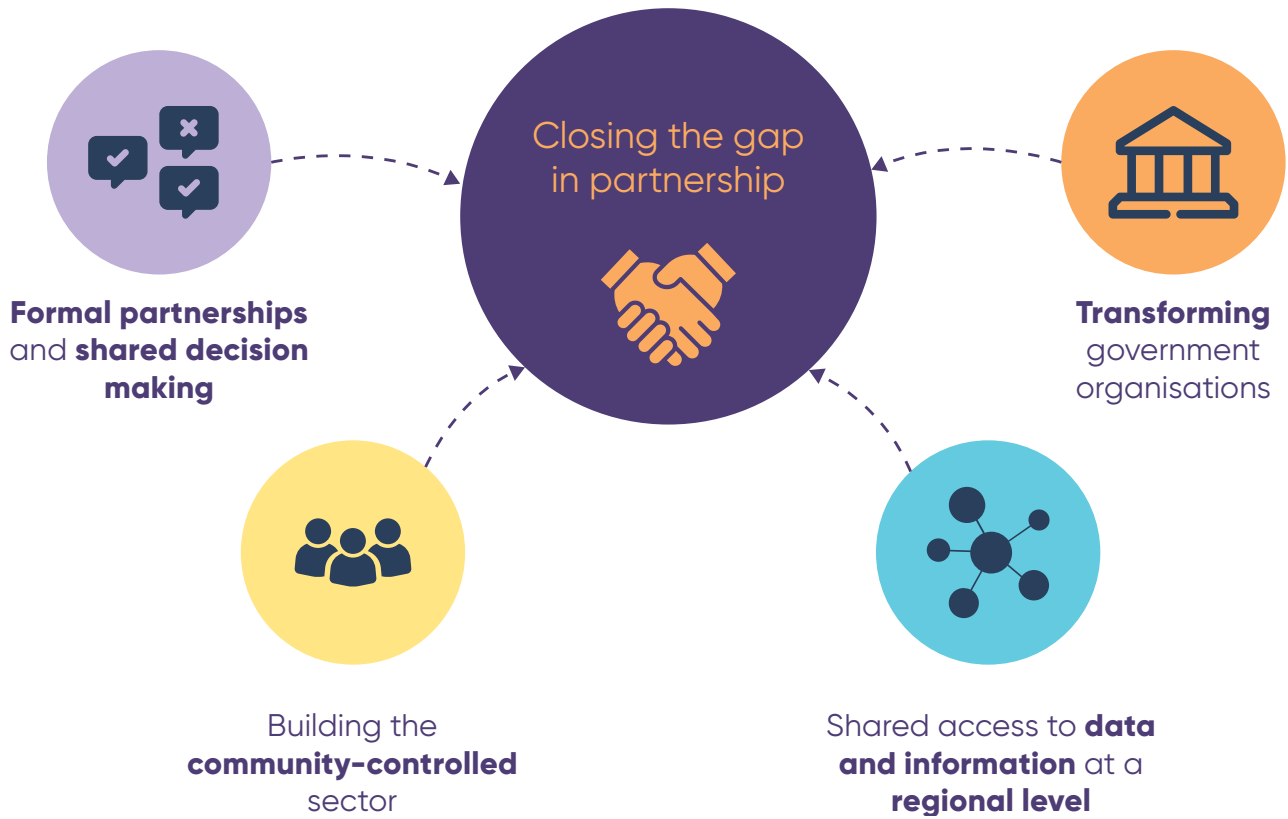
Closing the Gap Policy Partnership on **Social and Emotional Wellbeing**
\$8.6 million



Investing in Indigenous cultures and skills with **\$636.4 million** for more than **1,000 additional Indigenous Rangers** in regional and remote Australia. These jobs will deliver better environmental outcomes and bolster disaster resilience and recovery

A strong Indigenous Voice

Delivering on its commitment to co-design an Indigenous Voice, the Government will provide \$31.8 million in 2022–23 to drive implementation of the Local and Regional component. This follows extensive consultation with over 9,000 people and organisations.



TRUTH TELLING AND PRESERVING CULTURE

Ngurra Cultural Precinct: a place for reconciliation in the heart of Australia's capital

Ngurra will be a meeting place to learn about the diverse, living story of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It will include a national resting place to care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ancestral remains, a learning and knowledge centre, and the Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies. The Government will provide \$316.5 million to establish the precinct.



Supporting our veterans and their families

Improving veteran wellbeing and commemorating their service and sacrifice

The Government established the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide in 2021 to examine systemic issues contributing to defence and veteran death by suicide

Over 330,000 veterans and dependants are receiving financial, health and wellbeing support. In addition, the number of veteran card holders has grown from 217,500 in 2013 to 263,000 in 2021.

More responsive services for veterans and families

The Government is continuing its commitment to the wellbeing of veterans and their families with an investment of \$165.0 million over 4 years to improve services. Veteran home care will continue to offer reliable and sustainable services for up to 37,000 veterans across Australia with an additional \$70.5 million in funding.

There will also be further investments to boost processing of claims for rehabilitation, compensation and income support submitted by veterans and their dependents.

Improving veteran wellbeing



Support when preparing to leave the Defence Force

financial counselling service to help the transition from defence service



Mental health support

Expanding Kookaburra Kids mental health program for Defence kids to more regional areas



Helping families

increased flexibility in family support packages



Supporting the veteran community

Veteran wellbeing grants for innovative ideas

Sport and recreation opportunities, such as the **Invictus Games** and **Warrior Games**, help wounded, ill or injured veterans through their recovery journey



Honouring the service of our veterans

Australians are proud of the service and sacrifice of our veterans. We commemorate those who have served Australia and its allies in wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations.

The Government is providing funding to honour veterans and commemorate Australia's military history. This includes:

- \$6.0 million to acknowledge the 50th Anniversary of the end of Australia's participation in the Vietnam War, and
- \$5.1 million to rebuild the visitors' pavilion in the Sandakan Memorial Park in Malaysia.

Since 2019-20, the Government has provided Saluting Their Service commemorative grants to **830 projects** around the country



Andrew with Leon, his psychiatric assistance dog.

The lives of veterans living with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are changing due to the Government's Psychiatric Assistance Dog Program. Andrew received the very first assistance dog, Leon, through the program in 2019. Leon has been specifically trained to support Andrew's clinical recovery from PTSD, enabling him to live a full and active life.

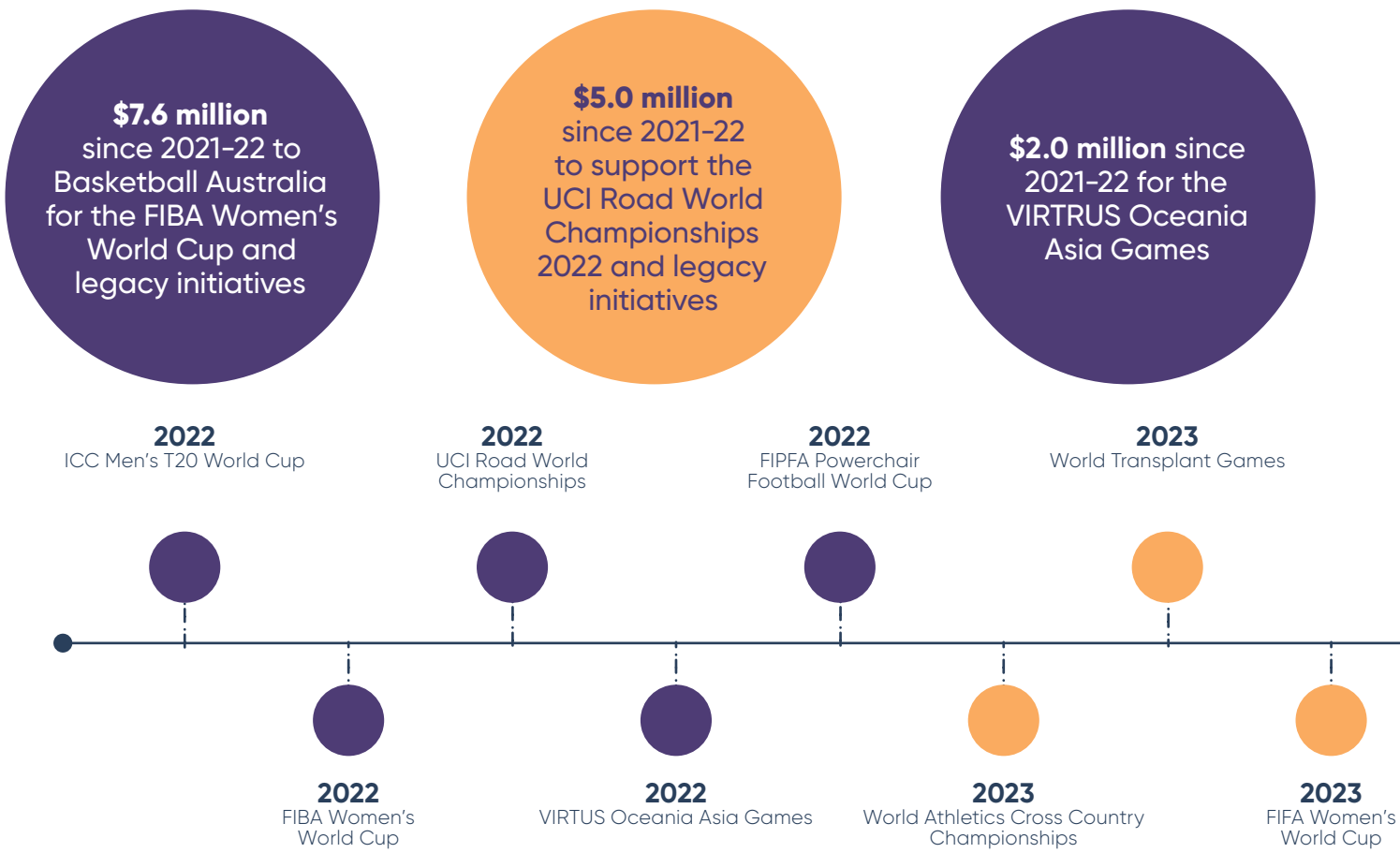


Green and gold decade

More international sporting events to showcase Australia

Australians will enjoy a pipeline of major international sporting events that will deliver economic opportunities for Australian businesses and benefits to the community by creating jobs and inspiring participation. This decade will culminate in the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, which will showcase Australia on the biggest stage of all.

Until then, Australians across the country can support our sporting stars at over 15 major events.





\$22.5 million
since 2016-17 for
Football Australia
for the FIFA Women's
World Cup 2023 and
legacy initiatives

We're supporting
bids for the
Rugby World Cup
(men's) in 2027 and
Rugby World Cup
(women's) in 2029

2023
World Bowls
Championships

2025
ICF Canoe Slalom World
Championships

2027
Netball World Cup

2032
Brisbane Olympic
and Paralympic
Games

2024
Lifesaving World
Championships

2026
UCI BMX World
Championships

2028
ICC Men's T20 World Cup





Budget

2022–23

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