

Budget 2013-14: Health

May 2013

The 2013-14 Federal Budget provides a total of \$79.2 billion to be invested in health and aged care services. The following is a summary of the key initiatives with cancer care and an increase in funding for public hospitals central to Labor's health plan.

World Leading Cancer Care

New cancer care initiatives are the centre piece of the health budget this year. These include *World Leading Cancer Care*, a new \$226.4 million package that will reinforce Australia's position as a world leader in cancer research, prevention and treatment.

The package includes:

- \$18.5 million to fund research into prostate cancer at three centres: Epworth Hospital in Melbourne (\$6.2 million), the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane (\$6.2 million) and the Kinghorn Cancer Centre in Sydney (\$5.5 million).
- \$56 million of new funding to extend screening for breast cancer to women aged 70 to 74.
- \$5.9 million over four years to improve the treatment and outcomes for people affected by lung cancer.
- \$92.2 million over four years to expand the target age range for the *Breast Screen Australia* Program and to continue funding the processing of pap smears for early detection of cervical cancer.
- Bowel cancer screening will be funded with an additional \$16.1 million over four years, building on previous investments in this area.

In addition, the 2013-14 Budget delivers \$42.1 million over four years in funding for bone marrow transplants and for the *Youth Cancer Network* program run by CanTeen, providing access to life-saving medical procedures and necessary support services for people living with cancer.

Hospital Funding

The Budget allocates \$14.9 billion for public hospitals in 2013-14, an increase of \$871 million on the 2012-13 Budget.

In addition, \$3.4 billion for emergency department and elective surgery improvements, and more sub-acute beds, is provided under the National Partnership Agreement on Improving

Public Hospital Services to provide additional services in hospitals in the lead up to Health Reform coming into effect.

From 2014-15, funding to state and territory hospital services will be uncapped and based on activity, meaning that the greater number of people cared for, the more funding services will receive.



Commonwealth Funding for Hospitals

Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme

The Government has agreed to a number of new and amended listings on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) and the Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (RPBS) at a cost of \$686.7 million over five years.

New listings include:

- Lyrica (Pregabalin) for the treatment of sufferers with chronic nerve pain.
- Victrelis and Incivo (boceprevir and telaprevir) for the treatment of chronic hepatitis C (genotype 1).
- Femme-Tab ED (levonorgestrel with ethinyloestradiol) for use as an oral contraceptive.
- Neupro (rotigotine) for the treatment of Parkinson disease.
- Juvicor (sitagliptin with simvastatin) for the treatment of type 2 diabetes and high cholesterol.

Private Health Insurance Rebate

An additional \$2.2 billion over four years has been allocated to assisting individuals and families to meet the cost of private health insurance through the private health insurance



rebate. A further 120,000 people have taken up private health insurance cover from July to December 2012.

GP Services

The 2013-14 Budget allocates \$1.3 billion for 14.1 million additional GP services over the next four years. This is due to higher than expected number of Australians visiting doctors and will be funded through the Government's universal health care system.

In addition a further \$33.8 million is being invested into the General Practice Rural Incentive program in 2013-14 to encourage medical practitioners to move to regional and remote communities.