

2022-23 Federal Budget

25 October 2022

Introduction

On 25 October 2022, Treasurer Jim Chalmers delivered the 2022-23 Federal Budget, the first Budget of the Albanese Labor Government. When addressing the media in the lead up to the Budget, Chalmers himself referred to this budget as a “bread and butter” one that will have its challenges.

In September, Chalmers announced a \$50 billion improvement in the federal budget compared to the March projections, predominantly due to the higher-than-expected commodity prices boosting returns from mineral exports.

With major focus towards cost of living and investment in the resilience of the Australian economy.

The inaugural Budget of the Albanese Labor Government looks to repair the Budget following the wasteful spending of the former government, and redirect priorities in a period of economic uncertainty.

The Budget also delivers on several of the Governments key election commitments which saw it win the May 2022 federal election.

Budget Outlook

The global economic environment has sharply deteriorated. Exacerbated by a global energy price shock, inflation has risen rapidly across advanced economies and, in many countries, is at levels not seen in decades. Central banks have lifted interest rates quickly in response, constituting the fastest synchronised monetary policy tightening in the inflation targeting era. The combination of these factors is expected to slow global economic growth in 2023 to 2¾ per cent. The risk of recession across major advanced economies has risen and China’s growth outlook has weakened.

- Nominal GDP is forecast to grow strongly at 8 per cent in 2022–23
- Nominal GDP is then expected to fall by 1 per cent in 2023–24 due to the assumed decline in commodity prices and associated decline in Australia’s terms of trade
- Higher nominal GDP in the near term will flow through to upgrades in tax receipts.

The immediate focus of the Budget is to ensure that fiscal policy avoids adding to inflationary pressures in the economy and beginning budget repair. Over time, the focus will shift to achieving measured improvements in the budget position that aim to stabilise and then reduce gross debt as a share of GDP.

The Government has identified \$28.5 billion in budget improvements over the 4 years to 2025–26, including:

- **\$3.7 billion** from extending the ATO’s Tax Avoidance Taskforce, Shadow Economy, and Personal Income Taxation Compliance programs to improve the integrity of the tax system
- **\$952.8 million** through comprehensive action to ensure multinationals pay their fair share of tax, including limiting the amount of debt-related deductions multinationals can claim,

requiring relevant companies to enhance the tax information they disclose to the public and closing loopholes on the use of intangibles and intellectual property.

- **\$22.0 billion** in spending reductions or reprioritisations, including:
 - **\$6.5 billion** in savings from reprofiling infrastructure projects to better align investments with industry and market conditions while maintaining the Government's overall funding commitment to the projects
 - **\$3.6 billion** in savings from external labour, advertising, travel and legal expenses
 - **\$1.7 billion** through more responsible investments in the National Water Grid Funds

2022-23 Federal Budget Commitments

Cost of Living

This Budget delivers a five-point plan for responsible and targeted cost-of-living relief.

This includes cheaper childcare and cheaper medicines, an expanded Paid Parental Leave scheme, more affordable housing, and getting wages moving again.

The Plan delivers cost-of-living relief and an economic dividend without putting pressure on inflation.

- **\$4.7 billion** over 4 years to deliver cheaper childcare for 1.26 million families.
- **\$531.6 million** over 4 years to expand Paid Parental Leave to 26 weeks by 2026.
- More affordable housing, including through a new national Housing Accord which brings together governments, investors and industry to boost supply and deliver up to 20,000 new affordable homes.
- **\$787.1 million** over 4 years to reduce the general patient co-payment for treatments on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme from \$42.50 to \$30 per script.
- Supporting wage increases for our lowest paid workers and getting wages moving again.

Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

The Government has enshrined in law our emissions reduction targets of 43 per cent by 2030 and net zero by 2050. Reforms to the Safeguard Mechanism will support whole-of-economy emissions reductions and align our economy with green growth opportunities.

The big financial commitments include:

- **\$2billion** commitment to cover flood-related costs
- **\$42.6 million** to restore the Climate Change Authority, introducing an Annual Climate Change Statement to Parliament and increasing transparency around climate-related spending in the Budget.
- **\$105.2 million** to support First Nations people to respond to climate change in their communities.
- **\$39.1 million** will improve the Australian Public Service's climate expertise, including by rebuilding Treasury's climate modelling capability.
- **\$45.8 million** will boost our ability to engage, share knowledge and partner with our neighbours and others around the world on climate change.
- **\$1.2 billion** by 2030 for Great Barrier Reef conservation and protection

- **\$1.8 billion** investment in strong action to protect, restore and manage the natural environment.
- **\$91.1 million** over 6 years will clean up and restore urban waterways, protect local species and improve liveability for communities.
- **\$224.5 million** will help save threatened native species and implement the Threatened Species Action Plan (2022–2032).
- **\$224.3 million** Community Batteries for Household Solar Program will assist up to 100,000 households to reduce their power bills by delivering up to 400 community batteries to store excess solar energy for when it is needed most. The Government is also providing \$102.2 million for the Community Solar Banks program to help up to 25,000 households access cheap solar-powered energy.

Finance and Treasury

Buy Australia Plan

- The Government has committed to the 10-point Buy Australian Plan to support Australian businesses to compete more effectively, increase employment and build resilience in supply chains. The Government has established the Future Made in Australia Office to coordinate delivery of commitments under the Buy Australian Plan. The cost of this measure will be met from within the existing resourcing of the Department of Finance and the Department of Industry, Science and Resources.

Cyber Hubs pilot – extension

- **\$31.3 million** in 2022–23 to extend the whole of government Cyber Hubs pilot

Delivery of a First Nations Voice to Parliament Referendum – preparatory work

- **\$75.1 million** over two years from 2022–23 to prepare for the delivery of a referendum to enshrine a First Nations Voice to Parliament in the Constitution.
- **\$6.5 million** over two years from 2022–23 to the National Indigenous Australians Agency to support the Referendum

Commonwealth Fleet Leases

- **\$15.9 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 (and \$6.0 million per year to 2032–33) to reduce the level of emissions of the Australian Public Service through a low emissions vehicle target for the Commonwealth Fleet of 75 per cent of new passenger vehicle purchases and leases by 2025.

Health and Aged Care

The Health and Aged Care portfolios were a key election issue. The Government’s commitments in each overarching area include:

Health

- **\$39.0 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 to increase the number and consistency of conditions screened through the newborn bloodspot screening programs.

- **\$4.7 million** in 2022–23 to the Channel 7 Telethon Trust to support children’s health in Western Australia.
- **\$1.3 million** in 2022–23 to the Trust for the ORIGINS project, funded through the Medical Research Future Fund, as part of annual funding of \$1.3 million per year provided since the 2017–18 MYEFO
- **\$3.4 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 (and \$0.7 million per year ongoing) to develop a National Health and Climate Strategy and establish a National Health Sustainability and Climate Unit.
- **\$75.0 million** over 5 years from 2023–24 to support the delivery of the Bentley Hospital Surgicentre in Perth in partnership with the Western Australian Government
- **\$9.5 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 to amend the Medicare Benefits Schedule to improve access to primary health care services and improve clinical practice.
- **\$61.8 million** over 6 years from 2022–23 to fund local health investment projects in rural and regional locations to improve primary care outcomes and reduce pressure on hospital emergency departments.
- **\$9.4 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 to continue the National Sports Tribunal, which provides independent resolution dispute processes for sport participants and National Sporting Organisations.
- **\$13.4 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 by responding to the Medicare Benefits Schedule Review Taskforce’s recommendations to align the MBS with contemporary practice
- **\$452.0 million** over 6 years from 2022–23 to support the establishment of cancer centres in Brisbane and Adelaide. Funding includes:
 - **\$375.0 million** over 6 years from 2022–23 to contribute to the establishment of the Queensland Cancer Centre in Brisbane. The centre will be owned and operated by the Queensland Government and will be located within the Herston Health Precinct at the Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital.
 - **\$77.0 million** over 5 years from 2022–23 to contribute to the establishment of the Bragg Comprehensive Cancer Centre in Adelaide. The centre is an extension of the Australian Bragg Centre for Proton Therapy and Research at the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute.

Mental Health

- **\$24.3 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 (including \$6.6 million per year ongoing) to improve access to mental health services.
- **\$13.0 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 to support communities impacted by flooding in New South Wales
- **\$12.4 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 to provide Medicare eligibility for Magnetic Resonance Imaging at the new Maitland Hospital, the Wyong Hospital, and the Hawkesbury Hospital in New South Wales.
- **\$15.9 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 (and \$6.6 million per year ongoing) to establish and support a National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health (the National Centre of Excellence)

Covid-19

- **\$410.3 million** in 2022–23 for the procurement and distribution of rapid antigen tests (RATs) and personal protective equipment (PPE) to support COVID-19 outbreak management and prevent the spread of COVID-19 in high risk settings.

- **\$808.2 million** in 2022–23 to extend elements of the Government’s response to COVID-19 until 31 December 2022. Funding includes:
 - **\$759.9 million** to extend the National Partnership on COVID-19 Response, which provides for 50 per cent of the cost of state and territory COVID-19 responses including vaccine delivery, testing and treatments
 - **\$48.3 million** in 2022–23 to extend the GP-led Respiratory Clinics program, which delivers face-to-face care, respiratory assessments, COVID-19 testing and treatment of COVID-positive patients
 - Extending medical indemnity legislative arrangements to continue access to the Run-Off Cover Scheme to support eligible doctors and midwives returning to the workforce to help address shortages arising from COVID-19.
- **\$3.2 million** in 2022–23 to undertake the initial design for the establishment of an Australian Centre for Disease Control.
- **\$355.8 million** in 2022–23 for the distribution and uptake of COVID-19 vaccines across Australia. Funding includes:
 - **\$314.0 million** for the distribution of fourth vaccine doses in primary care settings, pharmacies, state-based clinical sites, aged and disability care facilities, and First Nations communities
 - **\$41.8 million** for communication activities to drive uptake with a specific focus on people at risk of severe disease and those with lower access to mainstream media

Aged-Care

- **\$2.5 billion** over 4 years from 2022–23 to improve the quality of care in residential aged care facilities by requiring all facilities to have a registered nurse onsite 24 hours per day, 7 days a week from 1 July 2023 and increasing care minutes to 215 minutes per resident per day from 1 October 2024
- **\$23.2 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 to improve aged care infrastructure and services that provide additional support to older First Nations peoples, and older Australians from diverse communities and regional areas
- **\$9.9 million** over two years from 2022–23 to establish the Aged Care Complaints Commissioner within the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission from December 2022
- **\$8.2 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 to increase financial transparency through the introduction of new financial reporting requirements for residential aged care providers
- **\$5.0 million** over 3 years from 2022–23 to the Maggie Beer Foundation to support the sector in providing better food for residential aged care and home care recipients
- **\$3.6 million** in 2022–23 to establish a national registration scheme and code of conduct for personal care workers in the aged care sector.
- **\$50.4 million** from the Training for Authorised Nurse Immunisers in Residential Aged Care component of the 2022–23 March Budget measure COVID-19 Response Package – Ageing and Aged Care
- **\$540.3 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 to improve the delivery of aged care services and respond to the Final Report of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.
- **\$327.7 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 (and \$94.6 million per year ongoing) to expand the Continuous Glucose Monitoring Initiative to provide subsidised glucose monitoring devices to all people with type 1 diabetes.
- **\$845.4 million** in 2022–23 to support older Australians and the aged care sector with managing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding includes:

- **\$810.2 million** for claims made by aged care providers for additional costs incurred due to COVID-19 outbreaks that occur until 31 December 2022
- **\$34.9 million** to extend the current in-reach testing arrangements in Residential Aged Care Facilities to 31 December 2022
- **\$0.3 million** to extend the operation of the Victorian Aged Care Response Centre from 30 June 2022 to 30 September 2022 to enable the continued support of residential aged care facilities to manage COVID-19 outbreaks in Victoria during Winter 2022

Communications and The Arts

- **\$27.7 million** over 5 years from 2022–23 (including \$15.3 million in capital funding) for the Australian Communications and Media Authority to deliver a new spectrum management system and auction capability for spectrum licences.
- **\$757.7 million** over 5 years from 2022–23 to improve mobile and broadband connectivity and resilience in rural and regional Australia
- **\$84.2 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 to support Australia’s national broadcasters
- **\$6.0 million** over 3 years from 2023–24 to the Alannah and Madeline Foundation for the national rollout of the eSmart Digital Licence+, Media Literacy Lab and a new Junior Digital Licence+ to improve media and digital literacy and online safety awareness among primary and secondary school students.
- **\$31.0 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 (and \$4.0 million per year ongoing) to support local news and community broadcasting
- **\$36.8 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 (and \$1.0 million per year ongoing) to support the arts sector
- **\$5.1 million** over 3 years from 2023–24 (and \$1.8 million per year ongoing) towards the cost of regulating the tourist and heritage rail sector by the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator.

Defence

- **\$213.3 million** over 5 years from 2021–22 to deliver additional assistance to Ukraine following the invasion by Russia.
- **\$24.3 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 (and \$2.0 million per year ongoing) to improve the capacity of the Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA) to model increased demand for services and to support its operations.
- **\$46.2 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 (and approximately \$17.8 million per year ongoing) to expand access to the Defence Home Ownership Assistance Scheme to support Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel and veterans to purchase their own home
- **\$97.9 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 (and \$28.7 million per year ongoing) to increase the Special Rate of Disability Compensation Payment, Temporary Special Rate Payment, and the Special Rate Disability Pension by \$1,000 per year.
- **\$9.5 million** over two years from 2022–23 to develop, and consult on, a pathway to simplify and harmonise veteran rehabilitation and compensation legislation.
- **\$1.5 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 (and \$0.4 million per year ongoing) to assist with the purchase of a grave marker for private graves of veterans of the First World War

- **\$87.0 million** over two years from 2022–23 to improve the administration of the claims processing system and improve veterans’ services.
- **\$37.3 million** over 3 years from 2022–23 to the Department of Defence to support the development of defence and fuel manufacturing industries.
- **\$70.7 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 (and \$0.4 million per year ongoing) to support veterans and their families and improve veterans’ wellbeing

Women

The government has outlined a great focus on supporting women in the workforce, both in terms of participation and gender equality standards. Childcare subsidies will also be introduced to include a broader range of incomes in order to combat cost of living pressures. The Government have outlined their plan to support increased pay for women in low-paid sectors, including through the introduction of a statutory equal remuneration principle which will reduce barriers to pay equity claims.

Initiatives in place to support women in the workforce include:

- **\$4.7 billion** investment in early childhood education and care will assist in removing barriers for parents to increase their workforce participation and support families to balance their work and care responsibilities.
- **\$531.6 million** over the four years towards the extension of the paid parental leave scheme, but it could exceed \$600 million a year once the change is in place by 2026.
- **\$42.5 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 to implement its response to recommendations of the Respect@Work Report
- **\$32.0 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 to fund Working Women’s Centres in all states and territories to provide advice, information and advocacy to workers on gender-based workplace issues, including sexual harassment.
- **\$20.2 million** over 4 years to set up 2 new expert panels on Pay Equity and the Care and Community Sector to support the Fair Work Commission.
- **\$32 million** to fund Working Women's Centres in every state and territory. These centres provide free information and assistance on issues such as discrimination and pay equity.
- **\$1 billion** one-year National Skills Agreement jointly funded with states and territories to deliver 180,000 fee-free TAFE and community-based vocational education places from January 2023, targeted to priority groups, including women facing economic equality issues and those studying in non-traditional fields
- **\$15.1 million** over 4 years to implement the new prohibition, amending the Fair Work Act 2009 to expressly prohibit sexual harassment in the workplace, enabling the Fair Work Commission and Fair Work Ombudsman to deal with disputes alleging workplace sexual harassment.
- **\$169.4 million** over four years to provide an additional 500 frontline service and community workers across Australia to increase the support available for women and children experiencing family, domestic and sexual violence.

In addition to this, a large focus of the Women’s Budget were initiatives to protect victims of domestic violence, including but not limited to:

- **\$1.7 billion** to support women's safety, with \$1.3 billion to support implementation of the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022–23. It will fund initiatives to support the prevention of violence, early intervention, responses, and recovery and healing.
- 4,000 new homes for women, in particular, those fleeing situations of domestic violence.
- **\$55.3 million** for additional phases of the Stop it at the Start campaign and **\$32.2 million** to promote the importance of consensual and respectful relationships.
- **\$240 million** to support the ongoing demand for individualised financial support packages to assist individuals establish a life free from violence, through the Escaping Violence Payment.
- **\$57.9 million** is also being provided for the Keeping Women Safe in their Homes and the Safe Phones programs. Funding of \$100 million will continue the Safe Places program

Lastly, to advance gender equality, the Government will develop a National Strategy to Achieve Gender Equality. The Strategy will be guided by the new independent Women's Economic Equality Taskforce and informed by broad consultation. The Government is also delivering on its commitment to introduce gender-responsive budgeting so that the impacts of policies on women are taken into account in decision-making.

Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development

The Government have included a number of initiatives to support infrastructure development across the country, looking to work with each jurisdiction to streamline the delivery of major projects over the coming years.

The fiscal commitments include:

- **\$9.6 billion** for vital infrastructure projects across Australia
- **\$8.1 billion** over 10 years from 2022–23 for priority rail and road infrastructure projects across Australia to support economic growth and development
 - **\$300 million** for Western Sydney Roads Package and \$500 million for the High Speed Rail Authority.
 - **\$2.2 billion** for the Suburban Rail Link in Victoria.
 - **\$586.4 million** of additional funding for a major upgrade of the Bruce Highway to widen a 13-kilometre stretch through Brisbane's outer northern suburbs.
 - **\$1.5 billion** for upgrading important freight highways, sealing the Tanami, and upgrading Central Arnhem Road, as well as the Dukes, Stuart and Augusta highways in SA.
 - **\$540 million** to upgrade Tasmania's important road corridors, including the Bass Highway, the Tasman Highway and the East and West Tamar Highways.
 - **\$125 million** funding to help build an electric bus network for Perth.
 - **\$120 billion** pipeline of investment in transport infrastructure over the next 10 years. This includes \$250 million to expand the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.
- **\$24.7 million** over 12 years from 2022–23 to support the preparation and conduct of the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games, including the oversight of infrastructure investment to support the delivery of the Olympics and the coordination of Australian Government operational guarantees.
- **\$1 billion** for 2 new flagship programs that will drive regional development.

- **\$500 million** to the Driving the Nation Fund to help reduce transport emissions, including electric vehicle charging infrastructure at 117 highway sites and hydrogen highways for key freight routes. The Government will also ensure its fleet purchases and leases will be 75 per cent electric by 2025.
- **\$1.2 billion** in water infrastructure through its National Water Grid Fund
- **\$2.2 billion** for the Suburban Rail Loop East in Melbourne and \$500 million for planning and corridor works from Sydney to Newcastle for high-speed rail.

The Government have also highlighted their plan in the Budget to re-engage neighbouring countries includes the Pacific Climate Infrastructure Financing Partnership in order to work with Pacific island countries to build new climate resilient infrastructure.

Additionally, the Government is also expanding the remit of the National Housing Infrastructure Facility to allow it to more flexibly use \$575 million of existing funds. This will help unlock a projected 5,500 new dwellings, drawing in institutional capital and accelerating housing supply.

Industry, Science and Resources

Following the Government Spending Audit, **\$506.4 million** over 4 years is being redirected. Savings include **\$303.7 million** over 3 years from 2022–23 for the partial reversal of the 2022–23 March Budget measure titled Boosting the Modern Manufacturing Strategy and Addressing Critical Supply Chain Vulnerabilities.

National Reconstruction Fund

- The Government will invest **\$15.0 billion** over 7 years from 2023–24 to establish the National Reconstruction Fund (NRF) to support, diversify and transform Australian industry and the economy through targeted co-investments in 7 priority areas: resources; agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors; transport; medical science; renewables and low emission technologies; defence capability; and enabling capabilities.

Resources

- **\$99.8 million** over 3 years from 2022–23 for the Strategic Critical Minerals Development Program to support Australian critical minerals producers overcome technical and market access barriers.
- **\$50.5 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 to establish the Australian Critical Minerals Research and Development Hub to coordinate and align government, industry and academic research and development efforts in Australia and internationally
- **\$10.0 million** over 3 years from 2022–23 to support research and development to advance new commercially viable projects for methane abatement in the resources sector.

Industry

\$135.5 million over 4 years from 2022–23 to continue to support Australian industry to develop domestic manufacturing capabilities and upskill the manufacturing sector workforce. Including:

- **\$113.6 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 to support local industry:
 - **\$50.0 million** to upgrade the Nyrstar Hobart zinc smelter in Tasmania.
 - **\$17.2 million** for a pilot Food Manufacturing Innovation Hub in New South Wales.
 - **\$12.6 million** to support Cytiva’s Springfield BioPark project in Queensland.

- **\$14.2 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 to develop a National Rail Manufacturing Plan to ensure more trains are built in Australia.
- **\$6.1 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 to help consumers choose ethically sourced Australian textile, clothing and footwear products
- **\$1.6 million** over two years from 2022–23 to implement Mandatory Country of Origin Labelling to support the Australian seafood industry.

Science and Technology

- **\$47.2 million** over 6 years from 2022–23 to support the development of talent and leadership in Australian science and technology. Funding includes:

Gas

- **\$65.7 million** over 9 years from 2022–23 to support the supply of Australian domestic gas through increasing monitoring of the gas market and improving the Government’s ability to respond to changing market conditions.
- **\$40.9 million** over 8 years from 2022–23 to increase the frequency of domestic gas supply assessments by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) and implement reforms to the Australian Domestic Gas Security Mechanism.
- **\$24.8 million** over 8 years from 2023–24 to extend the ACCC’s inquiry into gas supply arrangements in Australia.

Education

Child Care Subsidy Reforms Integrity Package

- **\$47.7 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 will be provided to the Department of Education to support a range of activities to help reduce fraud and non-compliance.

Cheaper Child Care

- **\$4.7 billion** over 4 years from 2022–23 to deliver cheaper child care.

Consent and Respectful Relationships Education

- **\$65.3 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 to invest in respectful relationships education to help prevent gender-based violence and keep children safe.

Youth Engagement

- **\$10.5 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 to implement a new youth engagement model.

Schools Upgrade Fund

- **\$270.8 million** over two years from 2022–23 to implement the Schools Upgrade Fund to provide grants to support capital works projects for upgrades to school equipment and to improve ventilation in classrooms.

Higher Education

- **\$15.4 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 to establish the Startup Year program to deliver income contingent Higher Education Loan Program loans to up to 2,000 recent graduates, postgraduate and final year undergraduate students per year.

- **\$491.8 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 to boost higher education and strengthen Australia’s university system. Including:
 - **\$485.5 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 for 20,000 additional Commonwealth supported places at universities and other higher education providers commencing in 2023 and 2024.

Student Wellbeing Boost

- **\$203.7 million** over two years from 2022–23 to provide a funding boost to every Australian school to help address the adverse impacts of COVID-19 on student wellbeing.

Teacher Shortages

- **\$310.4 million** over 9 years from 2022–23 to attract and retain high-quality teachers and improve student outcomes.

Indigenous Australians

First Nations Voice to Parliament

- **\$75.1 million** over two years from 2022–23 to prepare for the delivery of a referendum to enshrine a First Nations Voice to Parliament in the Constitution. Including:
 - **\$52.6 million** over two years from 2022–23 to the Australian Electoral Commission and other agencies to commence preparations and support work to deliver the Referendum.
 - **\$16.1 million** over two years from 2022–23 to the Australian Electoral Commission to increase First Nations enrolment and participation in future electoral events.
 - **\$6.5 million** over two years from 2022–23 to the National Indigenous Australians Agency to support the Referendum, including the establishment of a governance structure to support the special advisory groups that will engage with stakeholders and provide advice to Government.

Makarrata Commission

- **\$5.8 million** over 3 years from 2022–23 to commence work on establishing an independent Makarrata Commission to oversee processes for agreement making and truth telling.
- **\$43.9 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 for measures that support the National Agreement on Closing the Gap targets and improve early childhood outcomes for First Nations children.
- **\$50 million** for an Aboriginal Cultural Centre for Western Australia.
- **\$14.1 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 to partner with First Nations people and primary schools to teach First Nations languages and culture.

Social Services

- **\$49.2 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 (and \$15.6 million per year ongoing) for 100 additional Centrelink Workers in Far North Queensland.
- **\$217.7 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 to abolish the Cashless Debit Card and commence transition to voluntary income management.
- **\$47.0 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 to support people living with a disability.
- **\$9.2 million** over 3 years from 2022–23 to establish the Closing the Gap Housing Policy Partnership.

- **\$19.4 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 to extend the Disability Employment Services program for two years to 30 June 2025.
- **\$73.2 million** over 4 years to incentivise pensioners to downsize.
- **\$61.9 million** over two years from 2022–23 to provide age and veterans pensioners a once off credit of \$4,000 to their Work Bonus income bank.
- **\$69.6 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 to increase the income threshold for the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card from \$61,284 to \$90,000 for singles and from \$98,054 to \$144,000 (combined) for couples.
- **\$5.3 million** over two years from 2022–23 to improve outcomes for people with autism.
- **\$13.4 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 (and \$4.2 million per year ongoing) to develop a 10-year National Housing and Homelessness Plan in 2023.
- Additional funding of **\$15.0 million** in 2022–23 for the Department of Social Services for continued implementation of the National Redress Scheme for survivors of institutional child sexual abuse, to process a greater than expected number of applications.
- **\$437.4 million** over 3 years from 2022–23 for the NDIS to support people with disability and their families
- **\$12.7 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 to the Department of Social Services to improve access to services that enhance community wellbeing. This includes playgroups and toy libraries and supporting free haircuts to people experiencing homelessness.
- **\$1.4 billion** for local community, sport and infrastructure projects across Australia.

Employment and Workplace Relations

The Government will abolish the Australian Building and Construction Commission and Provide Additional Resources for the Fair Work Ombudsman. This contributes to **\$61.1 million** in savings over 4 years.

Skills and Training

- **\$12.9 million** in funding over 3 years to establish Jobs and Skills
- **\$95.6 million** over 9 years from 2022–23 to support 10,000 new energy apprenticeships.
- **\$9.6 million** over 5 years from 2022–23 to support Australia’s workforce to transition to a clean energy economy with the New Energy Skills Program.
- **\$43.2 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 (and \$11.1 million per year ongoing) to update workplace laws to get wages moving, boost job security, address gender inequity and create more opportunities for Australians.
- **\$871.7 million** over 5 years from 2022–23 to provide 480,000 fee-free Technical and Further Education (TAFE) and vocational education places in industries and regions with skills shortages
- **\$50.0 million** over two years from 2022–23 to modernise IT infrastructure, workshops, laboratories, telehealth simulators, and other facilities at TAFEs across Australia.

Foreign Affairs and Trade

- **\$1.4 billion** in additional Official Development Assistance over 4 years from 2022–23 to rebuild Australia’s international development program, re-establish Australia as a partner of choice in the region and enhance regional security and cooperation.

- **\$67.5 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 (and \$12.4 million per year ongoing from 2025–26) to expand and enhance the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme.
- **\$2.0 million** over two years from 2022–23 to establish an Office of First Nations Engagement, headed by an Ambassador for First Nations Peoples
- As a result of its Spending Audit, the Government will improve quality of spending by redirecting funding from 2021–22 MYEFO and 2022–23 March Budget measures. This totals **\$213.3 million** over 5 years from 2022–23 in relation to Foreign Affairs and Trade
- **\$2.2 million** in 2022–23 to assist family members and first responders to travel to Canberra and Indonesia for events commemorating the 20th anniversary of the 2002 Bali bombings.
- **\$147.5 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 (and \$23.9 million per year ongoing) to expand Australia’s engagement with Pacific partners and increase support to regional security priorities
- The Government will provide funding to support the development of key economic sectors in the region, with the financial implications not for publication due to commercial sensitivities
- **\$13.0 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 to increase engagement with Southeast Asia
- **\$171.6 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 to support Australian trade and tourism

Attorney-General

- **\$59.9 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 to support the operations of the Australian Human Rights Commission, upgrade ICT infrastructure supporting Commonwealth prosecutions, and respond to the Optus data breach
- **\$99.0 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 to support improved justice outcomes for First Nations peoples. Including:
 - **\$81.5 million** for justice reinvestment initiatives to be delivered in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

National Anti-Corruption Commission

- **\$262.6 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 to establish and support the ongoing operation of the independent National Anti-Corruption Commission (the Commission). Including:
 - **\$222.9 million** over 3 years from 2023–24 for the Commission.

Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide

- **\$15.5 million** in 2023–24 to continue to support the Department of Veterans’ Affairs to engage with the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide.

Royal Commission into the Robodebt Scheme

- **\$30.0 million** in 2022–23 for the Royal Commission into the Robodebt Scheme.

Home Affairs

Migration

- The Government will increase the 2022–23 permanent Migration Program planning level from 160,000 to 195,000. Priority will be given to offshore applicants and on-hand applications for the Skilled Independent visa – New Zealand stream.

- **\$175.1 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 (and \$80.3 million per year ongoing from 2026–27), to boost permanent migration to Australia by creating a new Pacific Engagement Visa for nationals of Pacific island countries and Timor-Leste. Up to 3,000 places per year.

Language

- **\$18.2 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 to establish a Community Language Schools Grants program to support more young Australians to learn a second language.
- **\$20.0 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 to provide more flexible delivery options for the Adult Migrant English Program and increase case management support to students.

Disaster resilience and support

- **\$630.4 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 to strengthen Australia’s resilience to disasters.
 - up to **\$200.0 million** per year from 2023–24 for the Disaster Ready Fund to co-contribute in support of resilience projects.
 - **\$30.4 million** in 2022–23 to implement disaster resilience initiatives across 30 local government areas.
- **\$38.3 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 to Disaster Relief Australia to expand its capacity to deliver disaster relief and recovery activities.
- **\$51.5 million** in 2022–23 to support communities impacted by natural disasters
- **\$25.3 million** over 5 years from 2022–23 to the National Emergency Management Agency for initiatives to improve insurance affordability and availability.
- **\$20.8 million** over two years from 2022–23 to support Australia’s readiness to respond to drought events

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

- **\$204.8 million** over 5 years from 2022–23 to support industry training, research and development to improve innovation and encourage sustainable and productive growth for Australia’s timber production.
- **\$134.1 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 (and \$3.3 million per year ongoing) to bolster biosecurity capability in Australia and support neighbouring countries to address the risk of exotic animal diseases
- **\$4.0 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 to establish an Inspector-General of Animal Welfare by expanding the functions of the office of the Inspector-General of Live Animal Exports to include animal welfare objectives for exported livestock
- The Government will improve quality of spending by redirecting funding from 2019–20 Budget and 2022–23 March Budget measures. This totals **\$47.1 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 in relation to agriculture, fisheries and forestry.
- **\$8.1 million** over 3 years from 2022–23 to support commercialisation of seaweed as a low emissions feed and support projects that lower barriers to market entry.
 - The funding will support the establishment of the National Hatchery Network, policy reform, and priority research and development activities.

Further information

For more information, please contact Hawker Britton’s Managing Director Simon Banks on +61 419 648 587. Further Hawker Britton Occasional Papers on the activities of the Federal Government are available [here](#).