

2022-23 Federal Budget at a glance

Earlier this evening the Treasurer, Mr Josh Frydenberg, delivered his fourth Budget focussing on cost of living relief, a long-term economic plan that creates more jobs, record investments in essential services and stronger Defence and national security.

Economic and Fiscal outlook

The Australian economy has proved remarkably resilient to the ongoing impacts of the pandemic, consistently outperforming expectations and exceeding pre-pandemic levels of activity by more than the major advanced economies.

A strong economic recovery is well underway, notwithstanding the pandemic and new shocks, such as the recent floods in Queensland and New South Wales and the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Economic growth forecasts have been revised upwards, driven by stronger-than-expected momentum in the labour market and consumer spending. Real GDP is expected to grow by 4¼ per cent in 2021-22, 3½ per cent in 2022-23 and 2½ per cent in 2023-24.

The strength of the economy, and in particular the labour market, combined with higher near-term commodity prices, has driven large upward revisions to tax receipts and reductions in unemployment benefit payments. The underlying cash balance is expected to improve significantly, with the deficit over the 5 years to 2025-26 estimated to improve by \$103.6 billion compared to estimates at MYEFO. The underlying cash balance is projected to improve from a deficit of 3.4 per cent of GDP in 2022-23 to a deficit of 0.7 per cent of GDP by the end of the medium term.

Net and gross debt as a share of GDP are both expected to be lower than at MYEFO and decline over time. Net debt is expected to be 31.1 per cent of GDP at 30 June 2023, stabilise at 33.1 per cent of GDP at the end of the forward estimates and fall to 26.9 per cent of GDP by the end of the medium term. Gross debt is expected to peak at 44.9 per cent of GDP at 30 June 2025 before falling to 40.3 per cent of GDP by the end of the medium term.

Executive summary

Superannuation

Extension of the temporary reduction in superannuation minimum drawdown rates: The Government has extended the 50 per cent reduction of the superannuation minimum drawdown requirements for account-based pensions and similar products for a further year to 30 June 2023.

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.

Cost of living relief

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.

Cost of living relief at the petrol pump: 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.

One off payment: 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.

Taxation

Medicare levy low-income threshold: The Medicare levy low-income thresholds will increase for singles from \$23,226 to \$23,365. The family threshold will be increased from \$39,167 to \$39,402. For single seniors and pensioners, the threshold will be increased from \$36,705 to \$36,925. The family threshold for seniors and pensioners will be increased from \$51,094 to \$51,401. For each dependent child or student, the family income thresholds will increase by a further \$3,619 instead of the previous amount of \$3,597.

Future Fund – extending income tax exemption to wholly owned Australian incorporated subsidiaries: The Government will amend the law to exempt wholly owned Australian incorporated subsidiaries of the Future Fund Board of Guardians (Future Fund Board) from corporate income tax. The measure will have effect from subsidiaries' first income year after Royal Assent of the enabling legislation.

Support for businesses

Technology investment boost: To support digital adoption, small businesses with aggregated annual turnover of less than \$50 million will have access to a new bonus 20 per cent deduction for the cost of expenses and depreciating assets that support digital uptake, up to \$100,000 of expenditure per year, applying from 7:30pm (AEDT) on 29 March 2022 (Budget night) until 30 June 2023.

Skills and training boost: The Government is introducing a skills and training boost to support small businesses to train and upskill their employees. The boost will apply to eligible expenditure incurred from 7:30pm (AEDT) on 29 March 2022 (Budget night) until 30 June 2024. Small businesses (with aggregated annual turnover of less than \$50 million) will be able to deduct an additional 20 per cent of expenditure incurred on external training courses provided to their employees.

Other announcements for businesses include reducing compliance costs for business through **enhanced sharing of single touch payroll data** and **modernisation of pay as you go (PAYG) instalment systems**.

Stronger health system

The Government is investing in a stronger health system with a total commitment of \$537 billion over the next four years, including funding for:

- Supporting specialist facilities and research to fight and prevent cancer
- Preventive health
- Mental Health and Suicide Prevention plans
- Supporting the vulnerable
- Improving access to medicines
- Lowering the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme Safety Net threshold
- Post-COVID 19 preventative health

Other measures

Building the Long-Term Viability of the Financial Counselling Sector: The Government will develop a voluntary industry funding model which will help meet the shortfall in general financial counselling services, including seed funding to establish a new not-for-profit body to implement the scheme. The measure will also fund a range of initiatives to support the financial counselling sector, including improving data capture in the financial counselling sector to better understand drivers and demand for financial services, supporting a virtual placement model for financial counselling students, and expanding the online chat and booking functionality of the National Debt Helpline.

Paid Parental Leave enhancements: The Government will improve economic security for women by enhancing the Paid Parental Leave scheme by rolling Dad and Partner Pay into Parental Leave Pay to create a single scheme of up to 20 weeks, fully flexible and shareable for eligible working parents as they see fit. The Paid Parental Leave can be taken any time within 2 years of the birth or adoption of their child. The income test will also be broadened to have an additional household income eligibility test.

Women's Safety: The Government will provide funding for initiatives to reduce, and support the victims of Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence (FDSV) against women and children.

Aging and Aged Care: The Government will provide funding to further implement the Government's response to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, to improve transparency and regulatory standards and continue ongoing reforms announced in the 2021-22 Budget.

Superannuation

Extension of the temporary reduction in superannuation minimum drawdown rates

The Government has extended the 50 per cent reduction of the superannuation minimum drawdown requirements for account-based pensions and similar products for a further year to 30 June 2023.

The minimum drawdown requirements determine the minimum amount of a pension that a retiree has to draw from their superannuation in order to qualify for tax concessions. Given ongoing volatility, this change will allow retirees to avoid selling assets in order to satisfy the minimum drawdown requirements.

Cost of living relief

Cost of living tax offset

The Government will increase the low and middle income tax offset (LMITO) for the 2021-22 income year. LMITO is targeted at low- and middle-income earners that are most susceptible to cost of living pressures. The Government is responding in a temporary, targeted and responsible way to reduce cost of living pressures experienced by Australian households.

The LMITO for the 2021-22 income year will be paid from 1 July 2022 when Australians submit their tax returns for the 2021-22 income year. This proposal will increase the LMITO by \$420 for the 2021-22 income year. This increases the maximum LMITO benefit in 2021-22 to \$1,500 for individuals and \$3,000 for couples.

Other than those that do not require the full offset to reduce their tax liability to zero, all LMITO recipients will benefit from the full \$420 increase. All other features of the current LMITO remain unchanged. Consistent with the current LMITO, taxpayers with incomes of \$126,000 or more will not receive the additional \$420.

This measure builds on the 2021-22 Budget measure titled *Retaining the low and middle income tax offset for the 2021-22 income year*.

Cost of Living Payment

The Government will provide a \$250 economic support payment to help eligible recipients with higher cost of living pressures. The payment will be made in April 2022 to eligible recipients of the following payments and to concession card holders:

- Age Pension
- Disability Support Pension
- Parenting Payment
- Carer Payment
- Carer Allowance (if not in receipt of a primary income support payment)
- Jobseeker Payment
- Youth Allowance
- Austudy and Abstudy Living Allowance
- Double Orphan Pension
- Special Benefit
- Farm Household Allowance
- Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holders
- Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders
- eligible Veterans' Affairs payment recipients and Veteran Gold card holders.

The payments are exempt from taxation and will not count as income support for the purposes of any income support payment. A person can only receive one economic support payment, even if they are eligible under 2 or more of the categories outlined above. The payment will only be available to Australian residents.

Temporary reduction in fuel excise

Global oil prices have risen significantly since the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The Government will help reduce the burden of higher fuel prices at home by halving the excise and excise-equivalent customs duty rate that applies to petrol and diesel for 6 months. The excise and excise-equivalent customs duty rates for all other fuel and petroleum-based products, except aviation fuels, will also be reduced by 50 per cent for 6 months. The Government is responding in a temporary, targeted and responsible way to reduce cost of living pressures experienced by Australian households and small businesses.

The measure will commence from 12.01am on 30 March 2022 and will remain in place for 6 months, ending at 11.59pm on 28 September 2022. Under the measure, existing policy settings for fuel excise and excise-equivalent customs duty, including indexation in August, will continue but on the basis of the halved rates. At the conclusion of the 6 month period the excise and excise-equivalent customs duty rates will then revert to previous rates, including indexation that would have occurred on those rates during the 6 month period.

The rate of excise and excise-equivalent customs duty currently applying to petrol and diesel is 44.2 cents per litre. This measure will halve the rate on petrol and diesel to 22.1 cents per litre from 30 March 2022, with the price faced by consumers expected to be reduced by a larger magnitude given GST will be levied on the lower excise rate.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission will monitor the price behaviour of retailers to ensure that the lower excise rate is fully passed on to Australians.

This targeted measure to provide temporary relief from fuel price pressures will be legislated to end on 28 September 2022.

Taxation

Personal Income Tax — increasing the Medicare levy low-income thresholds

The Government will increase the Medicare levy low-income thresholds for seniors and pensioners, families and singles from 1 July 2021. The increase in thresholds takes account of recent movements in the consumer price index so that low-income individuals continue to be exempt from paying the Medicare levy.

The threshold for singles will be increased from \$23,226 to \$23,365. The family threshold will be increased from \$39,167 to \$39,402. For single seniors and pensioners, the threshold will be increased from \$36,705 to \$36,925. The family threshold for seniors and pensioners will be increased from \$51,094 to \$51,401. For each dependent child or student, the family income thresholds will increase by a further \$3,619 instead of the previous amount of \$3,597.

Future Fund – extending income tax exemption to wholly owned Australian incorporated subsidiaries

The Government will amend the law to exempt wholly owned Australian incorporated subsidiaries of the Future Fund Board of Guardians (Future Fund Board) from corporate income tax. The measure will have effect from subsidiaries' first income year after Royal Assent of the enabling legislation.

Currently, the Future Fund Board is exempt from income taxes, but this exemption does not extend to its wholly owned subsidiaries. As a result, these subsidiaries pay corporate income tax, which is subsequently refunded to the Future Fund Board via franking credits attached to the dividends paid to it by the subsidiaries.

Extending this exemption will remove the administrative burden associated with the payment of tax by the subsidiaries and subsequent claiming of a refund.

Digitalising trust income reporting and processing

The Government will digitalise trust and beneficiary income reporting and processing, by allowing all trust tax return filers the option to lodge income tax returns electronically, increasing pre-filing and automating ATO assurance processes.

The measure will commence from 1 July 2024, subject to advice from software providers about their capacity to deliver.

Trust income reporting and assessment calculation processes have not been automated to the same extent as individual or company tax returns, resulting in longer processing times and limited pre-filing opportunities. This measure will reduce the compliance burdens on taxpayers, reduce processing times and enhance ATO processes.

The Government will consult with affected stakeholders, tax practitioners and digital service providers to finalise the policy scope, design and specifications.

Support for businesses

Small Business – technology investment boost

The Government is introducing a technology investment boost to support digital adoption by small businesses. The boost will apply to eligible expenditure incurred from 7:30pm (AEDT) on 29 March 2022 (Budget night) until 30 June 2023.

Small businesses (with aggregated annual turnover of less than \$50 million) will be able to deduct an additional 20 per cent of the cost incurred on business expenses and depreciating assets that support their digital adoption, such as portable payment devices, cyber security systems or subscriptions to cloud-based services.

An annual cap will apply in each qualifying income year so that expenditure up to \$100,000 will be eligible for the boost.

The boost for eligible expenditure incurred by 30 June 2022 will be claimed in tax returns for the following income year. The boost for eligible expenditure incurred between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023 will be included in the income year in which the expenditure is incurred.

Small Business – skills and training boost

The Government is introducing a skills and training boost to support small businesses to train and upskill their employees. The boost will apply to eligible expenditure incurred from 7:30pm (AEDT) on 29 March 2022 (Budget night) until 30 June 2024.

Small businesses (with aggregated annual turnover of less than \$50 million) will be able to deduct an additional 20 per cent of expenditure incurred on external training courses provided to their employees. The external training courses will need to be provided to employees in Australia or online, and delivered by entities registered in Australia.

Some exclusions will apply, such as for in-house or on-the-job training and expenditure on external training courses for persons other than employees.

The boost for eligible expenditure incurred by 30 June 2022 will be claimed in tax returns for the following income year. The boost for eligible expenditure incurred between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2024, will be included in the income year in which the expenditure is incurred.

Reducing compliance costs for business through enhanced sharing of single touch payroll data

The Government will commit \$6.6 million over the forward estimates period for the development of IT infrastructure required to allow the ATO to share single touch payroll (STP) data with State and Territory Revenue Offices on an ongoing basis.

The funding will be deployed following further consideration of which states and territories are able and willing to make investments in their own systems and administrative processes to pre-fill payroll tax returns with STP data, to reduce compliance costs for businesses.

Modernisation of pay as you go (PAYG) instalment systems

The Government will enable companies to choose to have their pay as you go (PAYG) instalments calculated based on current financial performance, extracted from business accounting software, with some tax adjustments. This will support business cash flow by ensuring instalments reflect current performance.

The Government will consult with affected stakeholders, tax practitioners and digital service providers to finalise the policy scope, design and specifications of this measure.

Subject to advice from software providers about their capacity to deliver, it is anticipated that systems will be in place by 31 December 2023, with the measure to commence on 1 January 2024, for application to periods starting on or after that date.

This measure will improve alignment between PAYG instalment liabilities and profitability, and support companies in managing cash flows.

Small Business Support Package

The Government will provide \$25.2 million over 3 years from 2021-22 to deliver initiatives to support small businesses. Included in this measure is funding to:

- enhance and redesign the Payment Times Reporting Portal and Register to improve efficiency and reporting
- the Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman to work with service providers to enhance small business financial capability
- support the New Access for Small Business Owners program delivered by Beyond Blue to continue to provide free, accessible, and tailored mental health support to small business owners
- extend the Small Business Debt Helpline program operated by Financial Counselling Australia to continue to provide financial counselling to small businesses facing financial issues.

Further information can be found in the media release of 13 January 2022 issued by the Acting Minister for Employment, Workforce, Skills, Small and Family Business.

Employee Share Schemes – expanding access and further reducing red tape

The Government will expand access to employee share schemes and further reduce red tape so that employees at all levels can directly share in the business growth they help to generate.

Where employers make larger offers in connection with employee share schemes in unlisted companies, participants can invest up to:

- \$30,000 per participant per year, accruable for unexercised options for up to 5 years, plus 70 per cent of dividends and cash bonuses; or
- any amount, if it would allow them to immediately take advantage of a planned sale or listing of the company to sell their purchased interests at a profit.

The Government will also remove regulatory requirements for offers to independent contractors, where they do not have to pay for interests.

Stronger health system

Fighting Cancer

The Government will provide \$423.7 million over 5 years from 2021-22 to support specialist facilities and research to fight and prevent cancer, including:

- contribution to the establishment of the Western Australian Comprehensive Cancer Centre in Perth. The Centre will provide multi-disciplinary cancer care, research and clinical trials in a purpose-built facility for all types of cancers
- establishing Genomics Australia from 1 January 2024 to drive the translation and integration of genomics into the Australian healthcare system
- funding to the Australian Cancer Research Foundation Cancer Genome Facility to establish a cancer genomics laboratory, operating in partnership with SA Pathology
- funding to the Pancreatic Centre at Epworth to diagnose and treat pancreatic cancer, undertake research and develop education materials.

Preventive Health

The Government will provide funding for preventive health initiatives including:

- addressing the reduction in testing and screening services due to the COVID-19 pandemic by increasing the availability of testing and screening services related to bowel, breast and cervical cancer
- extending 19 drug and alcohol projects under the National Ice Action Strategy
- establishment a National Allergy Council, a National Allergy Centre of Excellence and a national register for anaphylaxis
- a communication campaign to encourage Australians to stay up-to-date with health checks following the COVID-19 pandemic, and to raise awareness of health care system services
- continued funding to the Good Sports program and the Path2Help program run by the Alcohol and Drug Foundation, the Hello Sunday Morning Daybreak program, and the SMART Recovery online platform for alcohol and drug prevention and support
- funding to the FightMND Foundation for the delivery of early-phase clinical trials to develop new treatments for Motor Neurone Disease in Australia

- extension of the National Sepsis Program, and to undertake a national review of the impact of sepsis on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- supporting the continuation of the Life Checks program for 45 to 65 years olds
- research to address priority men’s health issues in line with the objectives of the National Men’s Health Strategy 2020-2030.

Prioritising Mental Health

The Government will provide \$547.0 million over 5 years from 2021-22 to provide mental health Stage 2 reforms through the 5 pillars of the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan – Prevention and Early Intervention, Suicide Prevention, Treatment, Supporting Vulnerable Australians and Workforce and Governance.

Improving Access to Medicines – Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme new and amended listings

The Government will provide \$2.4 billion over 5 years from 2021-22 for new and amended listings on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), the Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, the Stoma Appliance Scheme and the National Epidermolysis Bullosa Dressing Scheme.

New and amended PBS listings since the 2021-22 MYEFO include:

- encorafenib (Braftovi®) from 1 January 2022, for the treatment of adult patients with metastatic colorectal cancer
- upadacitinib (Rinvoq®) from 1 February 2022, for the treatment of severe atopic dermatitis
- molnupiravir (Lagevrio®) from 1 March 2022, for the treatment of adults with COVID-19 who are at increased risk of hospitalisation or death
- methoxsalen (Uvadex®) from 1 March 2022, for the treatment of steroid dependent, steroid intolerant or steroid refractory chronic graft versus host disease
- siltuximab (Sylvant®) from 1 April 2022, for the treatment of idiopathic Multicentric Castleman disease
- elexacaftor + tezacaftor + ivacaftor (Trikafta®) from 1 April 2022, for the treatment of cystic fibrosis patients aged 12 years and older who have at least one F508del mutation in the cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator gene
- nintedanib (Ofev®) from 1 May 2022, for the treatment of progressive fibrosing interstitial lung disease
- onasemnogene abeparvovec (Zolgensma®) from 1 May 2022, for the treatment of Spinal Muscular Atrophy in patients aged less than 9 months
- sacituzumab govitecan (Trodelvy®) from 1 May 2022, for the treatment of breast cancer patients who have unresectable locally advanced or metastatic triple negative breast cancer and have received at least 2 prior therapies.

Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme – lowering the Safety Net threshold

The Government will provide \$525.3 million over 4 years from 2022-23 to reduce the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) Safety Net thresholds. As a result of this measure, patients will reach the Safety Net sooner each year, with approximately 12 fewer scripts for concessional patients and 2 fewer scripts for general patients in a calendar year. On reaching the PBS Safety Net, concessional patients receive their PBS medicines at no cost for the rest of the calendar year and general patients receive their PBS medicines at the concessional co-payment rate which is currently \$6.80 per prescription.

This measure supports individuals and families who have a high demand for prescription medicines due to their health needs. It is estimated that around 2.4 million Australians will benefit from this change.

The change to the Safety Net thresholds will take effect from 1 July 2022.

Guaranteeing Medicare – supporting rural health – improved patient access to magnetic resonance imaging

The Government will remove the restriction on the number of magnetic resonance imaging machines eligible for Medicare in regional, rural and remote Australia. This will increase the availability of subsidized services in these areas. Machines will still need to satisfy other existing criteria including age restrictions on equipment and practice accreditation requirements.

Guaranteeing Medicare – Medical Benefits Schedule new and amended listings

The Government will provide funding over 5 years from 2021-22 to update the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS), including:

- new genetic testing items for the genetic conditions, cystic fibrosis, spinal muscular atrophy and fragile X syndrome
- a new item for positron emission tomography to inform treatment pathways for patients with rare cancers
- new and amended items for magnetic resonance imaging services relating to the diagnosis of liver and breast cancers, and diagnosis of myocarditis
- new and amended items relating to obstetrics and gynaecology services to improve health outcomes for pregnant women and to introduce a new surgical item for abdominoplasty to repair rectus diastasis following pregnancy
- a new item for transcatheter aortic valve implantation and a new item for a dual-filter cerebral embolic protection system
- a new item for the cryoablation of biopsy-confirmed renal cell carcinoma and amended items relating to orthopaedic surgery and the treatment of varicose veins.

The Government will also respond to the MBS Review Taskforce's recommendations to align the MBS with contemporary practice, tighten clinical indicators, remove obsolete items and restrict inappropriate co-claiming.

COVID-19 Response Package – personal protective equipment and rapid antigen tests

The Government will provide \$2.6 billion over 2 years from 2021-22 for the procurement and distribution of rapid antigen tests (RATs) and personal protective equipment (PPE). Funding supports with (PPE), including:

- The Rapid Antigen Test Concessional Access Program to deliver up to 20 free RATs over 7 months until 31 July 2022 to all Australians with a concession card, including Department of Veterans' Affairs card holders. This cost will be partially recovered from the states and territories under the National Partnership on COVID-19 Response
- Purchase of RATs to distribute to residential aged care, GP-led Respiratory Clinics (GPRCs) and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS), remote communities, and to states and territories
- Procurement and distribution of RATs to National Disability Insurance Scheme Supported Independent Living residents and workers, over 5 months until 30 June 2022
- Purchase of PPE for the National Medical Stockpile (NMS) to distribute to residential aged care facilities to assist them in managing COVID-19
- Extension of temporary access to PPE from the NMS to eligible primary health care providers, including general practices, ACCHS and GPRCs that are caring for COVID-19 positive patients, and vaccinating pharmacies.

COVID-19 Response Package – tax deductibility of COVID-19 test expenses

The Government will ensure that the costs of taking a COVID-19 test to attend a place of work are tax deductible for individuals from 1 July 2021. In making these costs tax deductible, the Government will also ensure fringe benefits tax (FBT) will not be incurred by businesses where COVID-19 tests are provided to employees for this purpose.

This measure is estimated to result in a significant but unquantifiable decrease in receipts over the forward estimates period.

Further information can be found in the media release of 8 February 2022 issued by the Minister for Housing and Assistant Treasurer.

Other measures

Building the Long-Term Viability of the Financial Counselling Sector

The Government will provide \$10.5 million over 4 years from 2021-22 to develop a voluntary industry funding model which will help meet the shortfall in general financial counselling services, including \$1.5 million in seed funding to establish a new not-for-profit body to implement the scheme. The measure will also fund a range of initiatives to support the financial counselling sector, including improving data capture in the financial counselling sector to better understand drivers and demand for financial services, supporting a virtual placement model for financial counselling students, and expanding the online chat and booking functionality of the National Debt Helpline.

This measure forms part of the Government's response to the findings of the *Countervailing Power: Review of the coordination and funding for the financial counselling services across Australia* (the Sylvan Review).

Women's Economic Security Package - Paid Parental Leave

The Government will improve economic security for women by enhancing the Paid Parental Leave scheme by rolling Dad and Partner Pay into Parental Leave Pay to create a single scheme of up to 20 weeks, fully flexible and shareable for eligible working parents as they see fit. The Paid Parental Leave can be taken any time within 2 years of the birth or adoption of their child. The income test will also be broadened to have an additional household income eligibility test.

These changes will not result in any existing eligible claimants being worse off.

Women's Safety

The Government will provide \$1.3 billion over 6 years from 2021-22 towards initiatives to reduce all forms of family, domestic and sexual violence (FDSV) against women and children, and to establish, enhance and expand initiatives that address the full life cycle of violence across prevention, early intervention, response and recovery. These measures will form the first phase of the Commonwealth's contribution to the *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032*.

This measure builds on the 2021-22 Budget measure titled *Women's Safety*.

Further information can be found in the joint media release of 6 March 2022 issued by the Minister for Families and Social Services, the Minister for Women and the Acting Minister for Education and Youth, the media release of 28 February 2022 issued by the Minister for Families and Social Services, and the joint media release of 14 January 2022 issued by the Minister for Families and the Minister for Women.

Aging and aged care

The Government will provide \$468.3 million over 5 years from 2021-22 to further implement the Government's response to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, to improve transparency and regulatory standards and continue ongoing reforms announced in the 2021-22 Budget. Funding includes:

Pillar 1: Home Care

- continued consultation on the design of the wider aged care reforms, including a new regulatory framework for the Support at Home Program.

Pillar 2: Residential Aged Care Services and Sustainability

- implementation of the Australian National Aged Care Classification (AN-ACC) and support the transition of facilities to the new funding model over a 2 year period.

Pillar 3: Residential Aged Care Quality and Safety

- improving the administration of medication management for residential aged care residents
- establishing a fund and invite states and territories to put forward proposals to trial new models of multidisciplinary outreach care for residents in residential aged care facilities
- extend arrangements for the third-party Quality Assessor surge workforce to conduct residential aged care site audits.

Pillar 4: Workforce

- provide additional clinical placements for students in the care and support sectors and to expand the Rural Health Multidisciplinary Training program to 5 new aged care demonstration sites
- Cross-Agency Taskforce on Regulatory Alignment to implement the next stage of regulatory reforms across the aged, disability and veterans' care sectors
- support co-operatives and other collaborative business models access the aged, disability and veterans' care sectors. The Business Council of Co-operatives and Mutuals will be funded to support the start-up and development of cooperative and mutual enterprises, and deliver business resources and professional support.

Pillar 5: Governance

- extend the aged care system regional stewardship outreach model for a further 6 months to 31 December 2022 to strengthen governance of the aged care system.

Further information?

Copies of Mr. Frydenberg's speech together with supporting Budget papers can be found online at www.budget.gov.au

Source:

- Budget Paper No 1, Budget Strategy and Outlook
- Budget Measures Budget Paper No 2, 2022-23
- Budget 2021–22: Record investment in the future of Australia's health system

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29 March 2022

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KDEG-018421-2022