

2023 May Budget initiatives

AND HOW THEY AFFECT GENERAL PRACTICES
IN THE HUNTER, NEW ENGLAND AND
CENTRAL COAST FOOTPRINT



AREA	ANNOUNCEMENT	IMPACT IN HNECC PHN	EFFECTIVE DATE
Strengthening Medicare	<p>Bigger incentives to bulk bill and more affordable care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 14 new Bulk billing MBS items. - 7 of these new BBIs will be able to be co-claimed with certain telehealth items. (The patient will have to be registered through MyMedicare) 	<p>The GP incentive scheme will triple the rebate to GPs who are prepared to bulk bill from \$6.60 to \$20.65 in capital cities.</p> <p>The rebate for bulk billing GPs will also be increased from \$10 to \$30 in regional towns and from \$12 to \$39 in remote communities.</p> <p>The tripling of the bulk billing incentive applies to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - all face to face general practice consultations more than 6 minutes in length - all telehealth general practice services which are between 6 and 20 minutes in length (Level B consultations) - longer telehealth general practice consultations where a patient is registered with their GP through MyMedicare <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MMM1: \$6.60 to \$20.65 - MMM2: \$10.05 to \$31.40 - MMM3: \$10.65 to \$33.35 - MMM4: \$10.65 to \$33.35 - MMM5: \$11.35 to \$35.40 - MMM6: \$11.95 to \$37.40 - MMM7: \$12.70 to \$39.65 <p>(Note: no MMM6-7 in the HNECC footprint)</p> <p>The tripling of the bulk billing incentive applies to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All face-to-face and telehealth general practice services between 6 and 20 minutes long - All other face-to-face general practice consultations <p>Incentives will cover general face-to-face and telehealth consultations, including home visits for people who are homebound, and consultations in residential aged care facilities.</p>	<p>1 November 2023</p>

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Strengthening Medicare	<p>New MBS Items:</p> <p>MBS Indexation:</p> <p>Annual fee indexation will be applied to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - most of the general medical services items; - most diagnostic imaging services (but excluding nuclear imaging services); and - pathology items in Group P12 (74990, 74991, 75861, 75862, 75863 and 75864). 	<p>New Medicare rebate for consultations of 60 minutes or longer to give doctors the support to provide care to people with chronic conditions and complex needs.</p> <p>Extension of the heart health check beyond June 2023.</p> <p>New patient clinical services including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - genetic testing for childhood hearing loss - genetic testing for haematological malignancies - profiling tests to determine a patient's risk of recurrent breast cancer - testing for the diagnosis of mitochondrial disease. 	<p>1 November 2023</p> <p>Extend beyond June 2023</p> <p>1 November 2023</p>
	<p>Wound care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chronic Wound Consumables Scheme 	<p>The scheme will cover the cost of wound consumables used by patients with chronic wounds & diabetes aged 65+yrs or 50+yrs for First Nations people.</p> <p>Incentive payment for GPs and practices for providing their Residential Aged Care Facility (RACF) patients who are registered with MyMedicare with bundled care, consisting of at least 2 care planning items (health assessment, contribution to a RACF care plan and/or case conferencing services) in the previous 12 months and at least 3 face to face visits every quarter.</p> <p>An incentive will be available to the practice for arranging the visits, providing access to multidisciplinary care teams and coordinating care.</p> <p>PIP QI payments will be extended for an additional year to 30 June 2024, and a review of all general practice incentive programs will be undertaken.</p> <p>National campaign to promote increased uptake of First Nations Australians' health assessments and improve administration and coordination of health assessments and linkages with allied health service and update eligibility for outcome payments under the Practice Incentives Program – Indigenous Health Incentive to include all Medicare Benefits Schedule items for the preparation and review of a Mental Health Treatment Plan.</p>	<p>1 July 2023</p>

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	<p>Aged Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New General Practice in Aged Care incentive payment <p>Practice Incentives Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quality Improvement incentive extension - Indigenous Health Incentive (IHI) 	<p>Incentive payment for GPs and practices for providing their Residential Aged Care Facility (RACF) patients who are registered with MyMedicare with bundled care, consisting of at least 2 care planning items (health assessment, contribution to a RACF care plan and/or case conferencing services) in the previous 12 months and at least 3 face to face visits every quarter.</p> <p>An incentive will be available to the practice for arranging the visits, providing access to multidisciplinary care teams and coordinating care.</p> <p>PIP QI payments will be extended for an additional year to 30 June 2024, and a review of all general practice incentive programs will be undertaken.</p> <p>National campaign to promote increased uptake of First Nations Australians' health assessments and improve administration and coordination of health assessments and linkages with allied health service and update eligibility for outcome payments under the Practice Incentives Program – Indigenous Health Incentive to include all Medicare Benefits Schedule items for the preparation and review of a Mental Health Treatment Plan.</p>	<p>RACF residents can register from 1 October 2023</p> <p>Incentive payments commence: 1 August 2024</p> <p>To 30 June 2024</p> <p>Commencement date not yet advised.</p>
MyMedicare	Voluntary Patient Enrolment	<p>Under the scheme, patients can voluntarily enrol with a general practice if the practice is registered with MyMedicare.</p> <p>Funding packages available for general practices to provide comprehensive care to patients who are frequent hospital users and those living in residential aged care.</p> <p>Longer telehealth and general practice consultations where a patient is registered with their regular practice through MyMedicare.</p>	<p>General Practices can enrol from 1 July 2023</p> <p>Patients can enrol from 1 October 2023</p>
Nursing/ Midwifery	Primary Care and Midwifery Scholarships program	<p>Establish 1,850 Primary Care and Midwifery Scholarships, supporting RNs and RMs in post-graduate study to improve their skills in Nurse Practitioner and Endorsed Midwife roles.</p>	<p>Commencement date not yet advised.</p>
	Nursing placements	<p>Expand the nursing workforce to improve access to primary care –</p> <p>6,000 clinical placements to provide nursing students with practical experience of primary healthcare nursing, to help meet future demand in primary care.</p> <p>Incentives to encourage 500 nurses back into the primary care workforce.</p>	<p>Commencement date not yet advised.</p>

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Digital Health Package	My Health Record upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To make the Australian Digital Health Agency (ADHA) an ongoing entity that delivers important digital health infrastructure. - Funding to support the digital sharing of pathology and diagnostic imaging information and transition My Health Record to “a data-rich platform. - Investment in the technology to make MHR “easier to use, is compatible systems that health practitioners are already using and connects the health system. 	Over the next 2 years
Workforce	Scholarships	Scholarships for nursing, midwifery, First Nations health, includes support for <i>international medical graduates</i> to address current workforce shortages.	Commencement date not yet advised.
	New pre-fellowship program for non-vocational doctors (rural)	A new pre- fellowship program for non-vocational doctors will be established to support international medical graduates to work in primary care and remain in rural communities.	Commencement date not yet advised.
	Extension to Single Employer Model (SEM) for Rural regions	GP registrars in regional, rural and remote locations will be able to deliver services in community-based medical practices without losing employment benefits as they move between employers, through an extension of the Single Employer Model trials.	Commencement date not yet advised.
	Workforce Incentive Program (WIP)	Flexible funding for multidisciplinary team-based models of care will be given a boost through an increase to the Workforce Incentives Program (WIP)	August 2023
	PHN Commissioned Allied Health, Nurse, Midwife services for solo GP practices.	PHNs will be funded to commission multidisciplinary care from allied health, nurses and midwives to support smaller or solo primary care practices, to increase patient access and improve the management of chronic conditions.	Commencement date not yet advised.
	Nurse Practitioners	<p>Medicare patient rebates for care provided by nurse practitioners will be increased by 30%.</p> <p>The Government will also enable nurse practitioners and participating midwives to prescribe PBS medicines and provide services under Medicare without the need for a legislated collaborative arrangement.</p>	2023-24 Budget

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Education	Action on smoking and vaping	<p>Action to reduce smoking and vaping rates, both of which lead to nicotine addiction and poorer health. Investment in new education programs and campaigns to discourage people from starting and encourage quitting.</p> <p>Investing in a new National Lung Cancer Screening Program to provide screening to eligible current and former smokers.</p> <p>Eligible Australians aged between 50 and 70 years with a history of cigarette smoking, can have scans <i>every two years</i>, including through mobile screening services for some regional areas.</p> <p>The new program will be co-designed with First Nations Australians to ensure it is accessible to those most at risk of lung cancer.</p>	<p>2023–24 Budget</p> <p>From July 2025</p>
National Immunisation Program (NIP)	Pharmacists Shingles Vaccine	<p>Pharmacists will be funded to administer vaccinations to eligible people listed on the National Immunisation Program (NIP).</p> <p>The Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) and other systems will be enhanced to allow the Department of Health and Aged Care to provide payment to pharmacists who administer NIP listed vaccines.</p> <p>The Shingrix vaccine will be added to the National Immunisation Program (NIP) as a standard vaccine (as an alternative to Zostavax).</p> <p>The Shingrix vaccine will be funded under the NIP for the following cohorts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 18 years and over – immunocompromised individuals at high risk of shingles - 50 years and over – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people - 70 years – non-Indigenous people 	<p>1st September 2023</p> <p>1st September 2023</p>



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HUNTER NEW ENGLAND
AND CENTRAL COAST

An Australian Government Initiative

**PRIMARY
HEALTH
NETWORK**