

Delivering a Stronger, Fairer Future

May 2012

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A strong economy for a fairer community

Sharing the benefits of a prosperous nation

At the core of this Budget is a plan that will ensure the benefits of our strong economy flow to families on low and middle incomes and provide better support to those who need it most.

The Government will do this at the same time that it returns the Budget to surplus on time and as promised.

Parents will receive an extra \$3.9 billion in payments, through additional family payments and the new Schoolkids bonus. A \$1.1 billion new Supplementary Allowance for the unemployed, young Australians and parents on income support with young children will also be introduced.

As well as helping families with the cost of living, major new initiatives in this Budget include the launch of Australia's first ever National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), a blitz on public dental waiting lists and reform of aged care.

Key new initiatives

- \$1.8 billion in additional family payments and \$2.1 billion through the new Schoolkids Bonus;
- \$1.1 billion over four years to create a new Supplementary Allowance for the unemployed, young Australians and parents with young children on income support;
- \$1 billion over four years for the first stage of a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS);
- A \$3.7 billion package of reforms to Australia's aged care system;
- \$515.3 million over four years for a dental health package to provide those in need with better access to dental health care; and
- \$475 million to deliver an additional 76 major regional health infrastructure projects under the second regional-specific round of the Health and Hospitals Fund.



Supporting those who need it most

Helping families on low and middle incomes with the cost of living

The Government is spreading the benefits of the mining boom, helping families on low and middle incomes and others in need, by providing:

- \$1.8 billion in additional support to families; and
- \$1.1 billion for a new Supplementary Allowance to low-income individuals in receipt of eligible allowances and payments.

This builds on the increased income that Australians will receive in coming months through the *Clean Energy Future* package, including the tripling of the tax free threshold and \$6.3 billion of increases to Government payments.

The first stage of a National Disability Insurance Scheme

Australia's disability support system is underfunded, unfair, fragmented and inefficient. The Government is addressing this by providing \$1 billion to roll out the first stage of an NDIS in launch locations from mid-2013.

An NDIS will fundamentally change the way disability care and support is provided.

Living Longer. Living Better: aged care reform package

Through the comprehensive \$3.7 billion *Living Longer. Living Better* package, the Government is delivering long overdue reform of the aged care system. There will be an additional 40,000 home care packages over the next five years, and \$1.2 billion to improve the recruitment, wages and training for aged care workers.

Dental health for low income Australians

For some people, the cost of dental treatment means they go without the care they need. The Government is investing \$515.3 million over four years in a dental health package that includes:

- \$345.9 million for a public dental waiting list blitz; and
- \$169.4 million for investments that will increase capacity of the dental workforce, expand dental services for rural Australians and promote good oral health for all Australians.



Spreading the benefits of the boom

The Government is spreading the benefits of the mining boom to all Australians. This will begin to roll out next year and will include:

- families on low and middle incomes receiving up to \$600 a year in additional family payments; and
- a new Supplementary Allowance for eligible income support recipients, providing \$210 a year for singles and \$350 for couples.

In this Budget the Government will also help families with their costs of living through:

- a new Schoolkids Bonus providing \$410 for primary school students and \$820 for secondary school students each year.



More assistance to families

Support for families

Sarah and Michael have two children aged eight and five. Michael has an annual income of \$40,000 and Sarah works part time with an income of \$20,000.

Sarah and Michael will receive an increase in their Family Tax Benefit Part A (FTB-A) as part of the Government's *Spreading the Benefits of the Boom* package. From 1 July 2013, they will receive an increase of \$600, bringing their total annual FTB-A entitlement to around \$9,150.

This is in addition to the tax cuts of \$303 and \$600 per annum that Michael and Sarah will receive from 1 July this year.

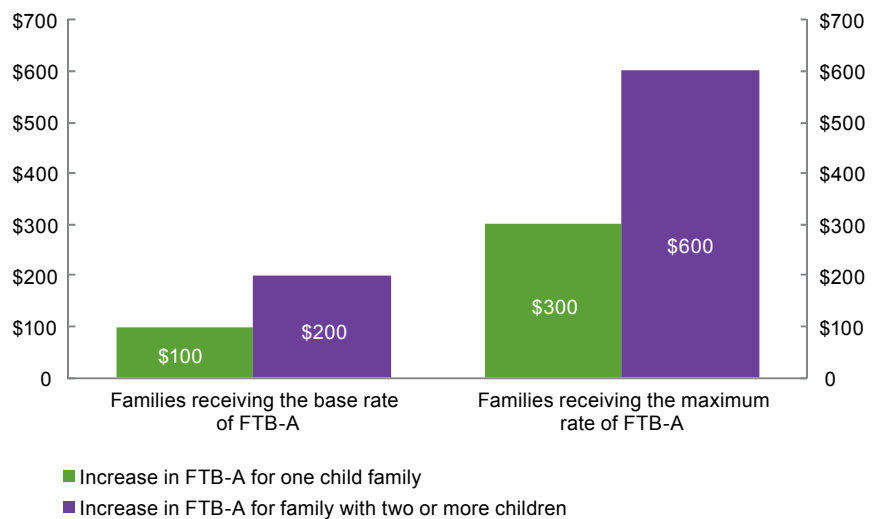
As part of the Government's *Clean Energy Future* household assistance package, Sarah and Michael will also receive increased assistance through FTB-A, beginning with a Clean Energy Advance of \$175 in May this year.

Extra support for families

Revenue from the Mineral Resources Rent Tax means that the benefits of the mining boom can be spread to every corner of our country. The Government will be providing an extra \$1.8 billion in family payments to ensure this growth is shared with over 1.5 million families on low and middle incomes.

From 1 July 2013, Family Tax Benefit Part A (FTB-A) will increase for all eligible families. Around 1.1 million families will benefit from an increase to the maximum rate of FTB-A of \$300 a year for families with one child, and \$600 a year for families with two or more children. Around 460,000 families will benefit from an increase to the base rate of FTB-A of \$100 a year for families with one child and \$200 a year for families with two or more children.

Annual Increase in FTB-A



Reaching every corner of the country

A new Supplementary Allowance

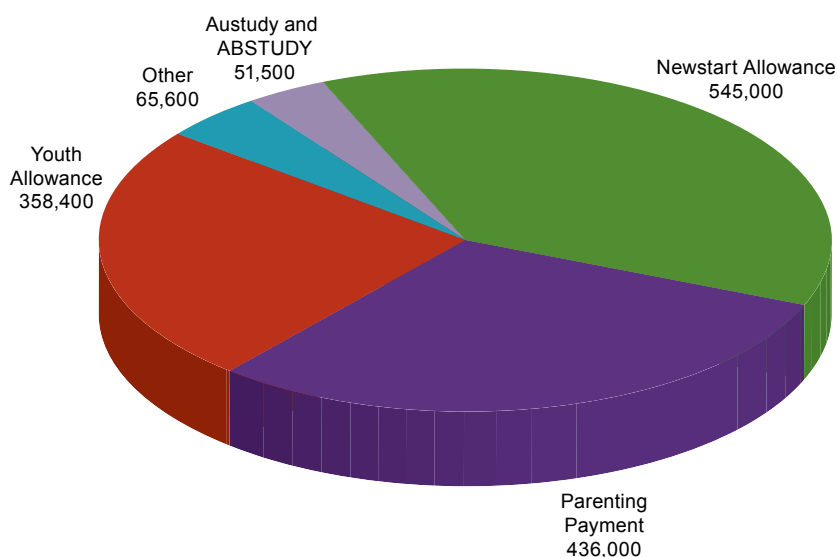
In this Budget, the Government is investing \$1.1 billion to create a new Supplementary Allowance, for recipients of eligible income support payments, including Newstart Allowance, Youth Allowance and Parenting Payment, to help them meet the costs of essential bills.

Eligible singles will now receive an additional yearly allowance of \$210, and eligible couples will receive \$350, paid in two instalments, with the first payment in March 2013.

This will benefit around 358,000 on Youth Allowance, 545,000 unemployed jobseekers on Newstart Allowance and 436,000 parents with young children on Parenting Payment.

In addition, fewer people will have to run down their savings before accessing income support. From 1 July 2013, newly unemployed people will be able to access income support, while still having liquid assets of less than \$5,000 for singles without children and \$10,000 for all others.

Number of income support recipients eligible for the new Supplementary Allowance by payment type (as of March 2012)



A new Supplementary Allowance — helping lower income Australians to meet the cost of essential bills

Bronwyn and Andrew are a couple and live together in a flat in Sydney. Bronwyn has just lost her job and Andrew is studying and working part time, and receives Youth Allowance.

While Bronwyn is searching for a new job she applies for Newstart Allowance. Due to the doubling of the liquid assets test, Bronwyn can access payments while still keeping the \$8,500 she and Andrew have saved to buy a new car.

In addition to their allowance, they will now be eligible for a Supplementary Allowance of \$350 per year, paid in two instalments, the first in March 2013. This will help Bronwyn and Andrew to pay their most recent bills.



The new Schoolkids Bonus

The Schoolkids Bonus

Alicia and Ben have two children, Jess and Charlie. Jess is in high school and Charlie is still in primary school.

Alicia and Ben have a combined income of \$90,000. They receive Family Tax Benefit Part A for Jess and Charlie.

Previously, Alicia and Ben had to wait until the end of the year to claim their Education Tax Refund (ETR). Last year they claimed \$250 for Jess's and \$50 for Charlie's school books.

From 2013, they will receive \$820 for Jess and \$410 for Charlie per year, paid in two instalments in January and July, making them \$930 better off. They plan to use Charlie's Schoolkids Bonus to pay for some extra maths tutoring and Jess's to pay for her school camp to Alice Springs. As a transitional arrangement, they will receive the full 2011-12 ETR as an automatic payment in June this year.

Supporting parents with children's education costs

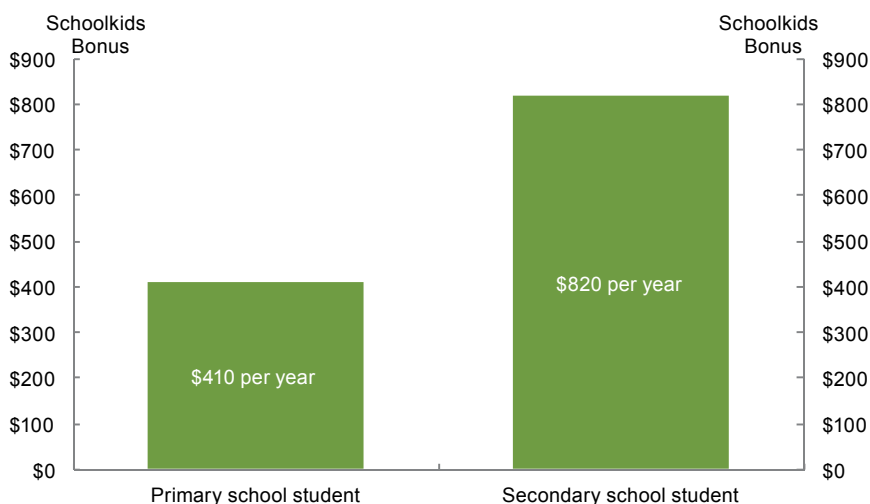
The Government is investing an additional \$2.1 billion in a new Schoolkids Bonus. This will replace the existing Education Tax Refund (ETR) to provide more families and students with timely and flexible support. For the first time, eligible families will be guaranteed \$410 for each primary school student and \$820 for each secondary school student a year.

Helping more families with the cost of schooling

To date, for 2010-11 around 284,000 families have missed out on the ETR and 774,000 have claimed less than the full amount. The Government is now investing in the Schoolkids Bonus to make sure that nobody misses out. The new Schoolkids Bonus will be paid automatically to all eligible families, meaning that around 1 million families will now receive extra support with the cost of schooling.

Compared to the average ETR claim across all eligible families in 2010-11 (to date), families will receive an increase of \$201 per primary school student and \$426 per secondary school student. In particular, low-income families who may not have been able to afford up-front educational expenses will now be able to access an automatic payment.

Guaranteed assistance to families



Supporting families with the costs of education

A simpler way to provide support

Under the Schoolkids Bonus families will no longer have to keep receipts or make a claim as part of their tax return. This will especially benefit those low income families who do not complete tax returns, and currently have to lodge separate claims for the ETR.

More timely assistance for back to school expenses

The Schoolkids Bonus will help families when they need it most. From 2013, payments will be made in two equal instalments, at the start of the school terms in January and July. As a transitional arrangement, the full 2011-12 ETR payment will be paid automatically in June 2012 — this will guarantee that no eligible family misses out on their full entitlement, and means they will not have to wait until tax time.

More flexible assistance for all education needs

Families will also have greater flexibility in how they choose to use the Bonus. They can use it to pay for a wider range of education related expenses, such as school fees, school excursions and music lessons, supporting a broad and well-rounded education for their children.



Building on past support for kids at school

The new Schoolkids Bonus will build on the Government's previous improvements to support families with school children.

From 1 January this year, the Government has delivered an increase to Family Tax Benefit Part A (FTB-A) for 16 to 19 year olds in full time secondary school to match the higher rate for 13 to 15 year olds. Families received an increase of up to \$4,208 a year in FTB-A for each child aged 16 to 19 years in full time secondary school.

This recognises the increased costs as children get older and helps families to support their children to stay in school.



The right support for the long-term

Matt relies on a wheelchair to move around. His house needs minor modifications to make it wheelchair accessible, but he has been unable to get funding for these modifications. As a result, whenever Matt needs to leave the house he needs a carer to come and help him.

Under an NDIS, he would work with a Local Area Coordinator to develop an individual plan for his care and support, which could include modifications to his home.

Matt would no longer need to use personal care and support to get out of the house, reducing his costs and allowing him to be more independent.

Historic first stage of a National Disability Insurance Scheme

The most fundamental social policy reform since Medicare

An NDIS will fundamentally change the way disability care and support is provided. It will provide peace of mind for people with significant and permanent disability and those who care for them.

The Government will provide \$1 billion over four years for the first stage of an NDIS in launch locations for 10,000 Australians from 1 July 2013, increasing to 20,000 participants from 1 July 2014. The funding will include:

- \$342.5 million for individualised support for people with disability;
- \$240.3 million over four years to build and operate an NDIS information technology system;
- \$213.4 million over four years to properly evaluate and assess people's needs and those of their carers. This will also include funding for Local Area Coordinators who will assist individuals in designing and managing a funded support package to meet their specific needs;
- \$122.6 million over four years to increase the capacity of the disability services sector to deliver NDIS services and supports; and
- \$53 million over four years for the NDIS Launch Transition Agency.



The need for disability reform

The current system is underfunded, unfair, fragmented and inefficient

A shortage of support under current disability systems often means individuals and families reach crisis point before they get the help they need.

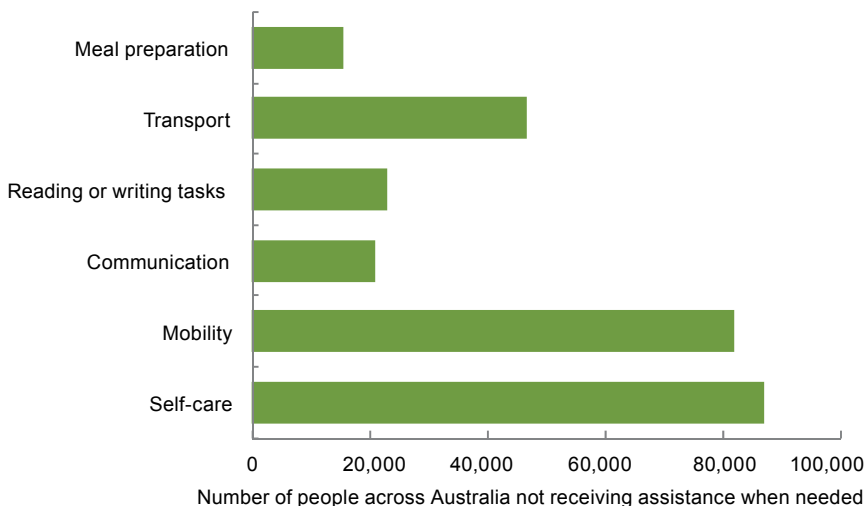
Families in crisis are prioritised by these systems, which in turn bumps other people down the list and increases the likelihood that they, too, will end up under extreme pressure.

This can mean that people spend time in hospitals or nursing homes when they could be living at home and participating or working in the community.

The Commonwealth will work with the States and Territories to build an NDIS that will give all Australians with severe and permanent disability access to reasonable and necessary supports over their lifetimes.

The Government is committed to an NDIS to ensure better lives for people with disability, their families and carers.

Unmet need for people with profound or severe disability requiring help with basic tasks



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia, 2009, as reported in the Productivity Commission Report into Disability Care and Support 2011.



Getting a better start

Cate has autism and requires early intervention services and therapy to help her develop important skills to prepare her for school.

Under an NDIS, Cate and her family would work with a Local Area Coordinator to see if therapy would help her. If effective, these supports would be provided on an ongoing basis as part of an individual plan tailored to Cate's needs. As a result, Cate would learn and participate at school and require less care in the future.



What an NDIS will mean for people with disability and their carers

More help for families

Jacinta is 35 years old and has Parkinson's disease. She relies on her ageing parents for care and support. Jacinta is worried that when her parents are too old to care for her she will have to go into a nursing home. Around 3,300 people aged under 60 are living in aged care homes.

Under an NDIS Jacinta would be able to receive funding for support in her home. Jacinta could also be given the option of spending some of her time in a group home with people her own age.

Jacinta and her parents would work with a Local Area Coordinator to develop a personal plan that will also look at what will happen in the future when Jacinta's parents are no longer able to help care for her. This means that Jacinta and her parents will have peace of mind, knowing that Jacinta will be well cared for in the future.

Support will be based on individual need

Under existing arrangements the level of assistance can vary based on where someone lives or how they acquired their disability. Under an NDIS people who have significant and permanent disability will have access to an assessment process that develops an individual support plan with funding allocated for reasonable and necessary supports.

An NDIS assessment will take into consideration a person's aspirations for participation and work in their community, support requirements and the needs of their carers.

An NDIS will provide early intervention and support services to improve the opportunities of people with disability, their families and carers.

More help for carers and families of those with disability

The care of a loved one will always mean more than formal attendant care. But our current system doesn't support long term, sustainable care. It relies heavily on the dedication of family carers, too often leaving them feeling exhausted and alone.

An NDIS would not replace informal and community supports, but will make them more sustainable. People with permanent and significant disability will be assessed and supported to develop an individual care plan for their lifetime including formal and informal caring arrangements.



The Australian Government's record on disability

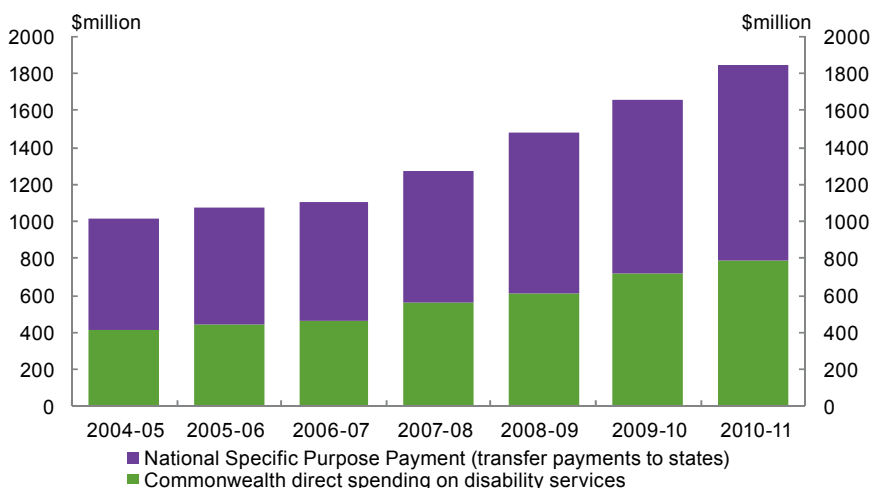
Extra funding Australia wide

In addition to an NDIS, in this Budget, the Government will provide \$59.6 million over four years for Australian Disability Enterprises to continue to help workers with disability participate in supported employment.

This builds on previous initiatives including:

- \$8.7 billion from 2009-10 to 2015-16 through the National Specific Purpose Payment under the *National Disability Agreement*;
- investing more than \$3 billion from 2011-12 to 2014-15 in Disability Employment Services;
- providing \$220 million up to June 2012 for early intervention services for children with autism under the *Helping Children with Autism* initiative.
- an extra \$200 million from 2011-12 to 2013-14 for support for school students with a disability; and
- providing \$118 million from 2011-12 to 2015-16 for access to early intervention services for children with vision or hearing impairments, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome or fragile X syndrome.

Commonwealth funding for disability services



Source: 2012 Report on Government Services



Support for workforce participation and work

Chris and Vicki have a son, Darren, who has Down syndrome and is about to leave high school. They want Darren to be as independent as possible when he leaves school, but worry about whether he will be able to cope with work in open employment.

Under an NDIS Darren and his parents would work with their Local Area Coordinator to identify different options for Darren's future. Once Darren is comfortable with his plan, an individually funded package would be developed.

An option that Darren and his family are keen to explore is to gain work experience from the local Australian Disability Enterprise and use those services as a pathway to work in the open labour market.



Dental care for low income Australians

Investing over \$500 million to strengthen public dental services

The state of your teeth should not be determined by how much you earn. Substantial unmet demand for state based public dental services means many low income earners miss out on the dental care they need.

That is why the Government is investing \$515.3 million in a package of foundation activities as a significant step towards a better system of dental care. This includes \$345.9 million for a public dental waiting list blitz to help deliver dental services to the estimated 400,000 people who are currently on state dental waiting lists.

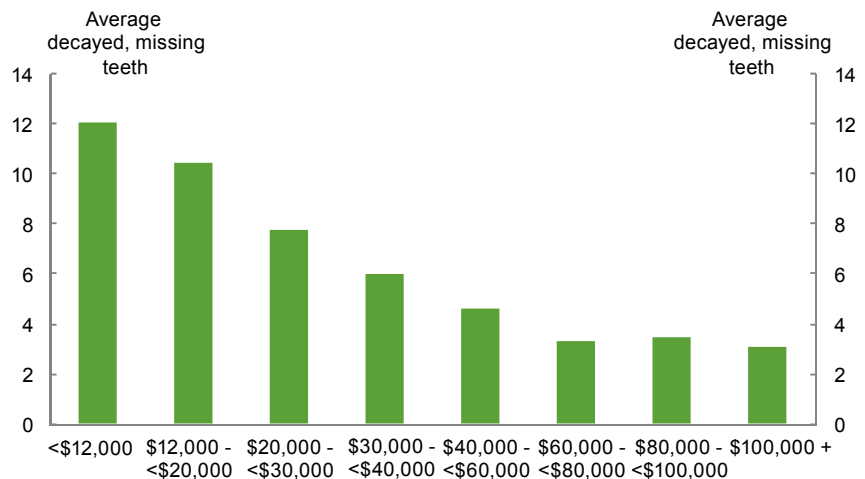
The Government is also providing funding to support the provision of *pro bono* dental services. This will help the most disadvantaged in our community including Indigenous Australians, the homeless, women and children living in shelters, and refugees.

Strengthening public dental services

As a concession card holder, Joanne is eligible for treatment through a public dental clinic. As there are approximately 400,000 patients on public dental waiting lists, Joanne has been waiting for over two years, around the average wait time for treatment. She is worried that her dental problems may worsen the longer she is required to wait.

To enable Joanne to get treatment more quickly the Government is committing \$345.9 million over three years to undertake a public dental waiting list blitz. Her state dental service will now be able to provide treatment more quickly due to this assistance from the Commonwealth.

Average decayed, missing teeth by household income, Australia 2004-2006



Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

More dental clinics, more dentists where needed

Access to dental services for all Australians

There is a shortage of dentists and dental practices in regional, rural and remote Australia. That is why the Government is investing:

- \$77.7 million over four years to encourage dentists to relocate to regional, rural and remote areas and set up practices;
- \$45.2 million over four years to establish an oral health therapist graduate year program that will boost the capacity in the public dental system;
- \$35.7 million over three years to expand the voluntary dental graduate year program; and
- \$10.5 million over three years for oral health promotion to improve Australia's oral health.

Additional investment through the Health and Hospitals Fund

The Government is investing \$475 million on new regional health infrastructure including \$8.2 million for dental health projects:

- a six surgery public dental clinic in Murray Bridge;
- a four chair general dental clinic in Narrogin;
- a mobile oral health clinic in Charleville; and
- a mobile dental unit for people in the Pilbara and Kimberley areas.



Expanding services for rural Australians

Kathleen has lived all her life in a small rural community in south west Queensland. She rarely visits a dentist as she needs to travel for four hours to a larger town centre to receive treatment. She is also worried that her children will not easily be able to access a dentist.

Through the assistance provided by the Government, more dentists will be able to relocate to a regional, rural or remote area.



Living Longer. Living Better: aged care reform

Better residential care

Simon and Jeanette are full pensioners who own their own home. Simon's health has deteriorated rapidly and he has recently been diagnosed with very severe dementia.

Simon is admitted to a residential facility and is able to access a newly refurbished room as a result of the Government's additional investment in residential care facilities. He is also able to access additional support through the new higher funding level for residential care recipients with severe dementia.

Simon benefits from the Government's new group visits arrangements for the Community Visitors Scheme, which helps him to stay connected with the local community. If there is a problem with his aged care provider, the National Aged Care Advocacy Program will be able to assist him.

A better system for older Australians

The Government has announced a five year, \$3.7 billion package of reforms of Australia's aged care system.

This is part of the Government's ten year reform plan for a more responsive and sustainable aged care system. Key elements of the package include:

- \$1.2 billion to tackle critical shortages in the aged care workforce, through a Workforce Compact;
- \$955.4 million to increase the supply of Home Care packages and assist people receiving aged care to remain in their home;
- \$660.3 million to encourage greater investment in residential care facilities, including in regional, rural and remote areas;
- \$268.4 million to improve the care of people with dementia;
- \$256.4 million to improve the accessibility and quality of aged care services; and
- \$192 million to support the diverse needs of older Australians.

Quality care, delivered by a quality workforce

The Government's \$1.2 billion investment in a Workforce Compact aims to raise the quality of aged care services by improving the recruitment and retention of qualified staff, including through:

- wage increases for the aged care workforce;
- enhanced training and education opportunities; and
- improved career development and workforce planning.



Helping people stay at home for longer

More care where it is needed

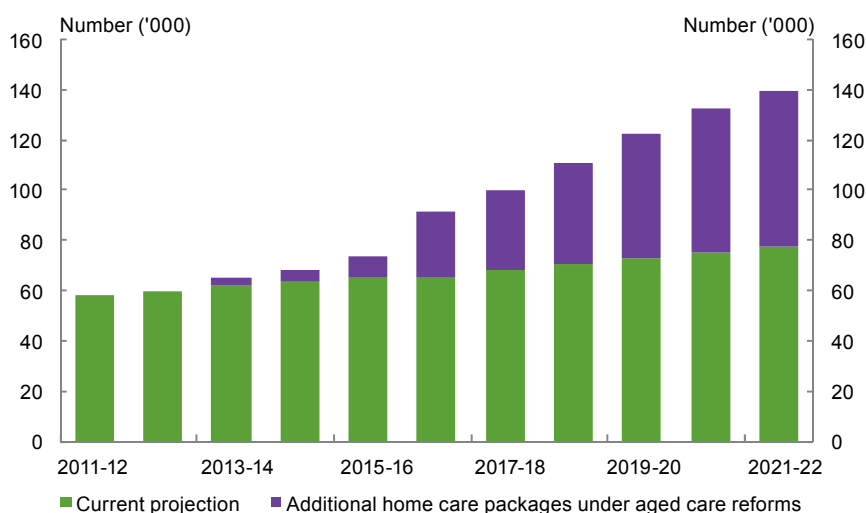
Many older Australians want to access aged care services in their own home, but currently almost one in three older Australians have to wait more than three months for a package.

To address supply shortages and to respond to older Australians' preference for receiving aged care services in the home, the Government's aged care reforms will:

- provide \$880.1 million over five years to increase the number of Home Care packages. There will be an additional 40,000 packages over the next five years;
- improve incentives for residential aged care providers to invest in new facilities, including those in regional, rural and remote areas, and provide greater choice and control for recipients of residential aged care, at a cost of \$660.3 million;
- expand and streamline basic home support services into a national *Home Support* program, at a cost of \$75.3 million; and
- streamline and expand respite support for carers of older Australians, to complement the expansion in aged care services, at a cost of \$54.8 million.

This will allow more Australians to stay at home for longer and provide more and better quality care for those who need residential care.

Projected increase in home care packages



Source: Department of Health and Ageing



More Home Care packages

Eva is a full pensioner who owns her own home. She lost her husband a few years ago. Because of a bad fall, her care needs have increased. However she would prefer to receive care at home.

Currently, neither of the two available levels of Home Care package matches Eva's care needs. From 2013 the Government will add two additional package levels to better meet the needs of people like Eva.

Eva will have more choice in accessing an aged care provider because there will be 40,000 additional Home Care packages released over the next five years.

She will also have greater control over the type and timing of the services that she receives, through the introduction of consumer directed care.



Implementing our health reform agenda

Hospital funding where it is needed most

Public hospitals on the Sunshine Coast are some of the fastest growing in Australia. In the five years to 2009-10 services provided by these hospitals have increased by over 41 per cent and costs by over 95 per cent.

Under the National Health Reform Agreement, Commonwealth funding will be increased and better targeted to areas with high demand for hospital services, such as the Sunshine Coast.

From 2014-15, the Commonwealth will not only continue to contribute funding for existing hospital services, but will also fund 45 per cent of every additional service provided by Australian public hospitals, increasing to 50 per cent by 2017-18.

This will ensure that Australia's public hospitals continue to receive the funding support they need to deliver high quality patient care.

Rolling out key elements of health reform

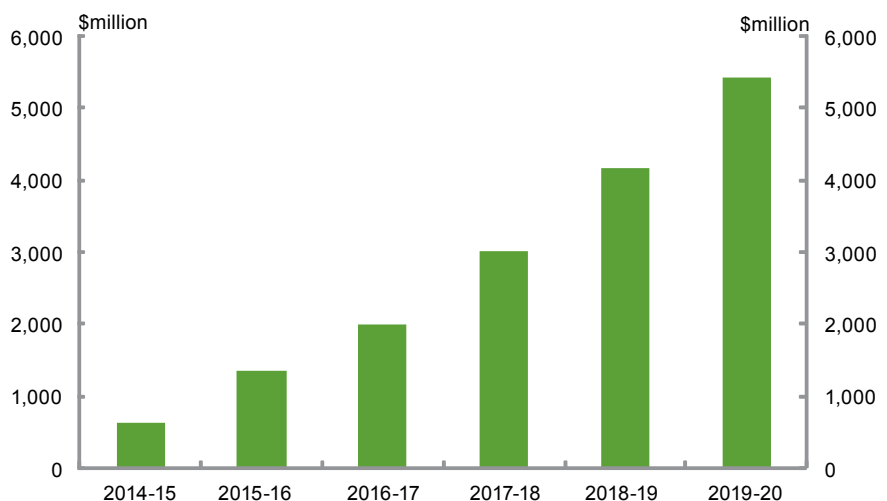
In August 2011, the Commonwealth and all States and Territories reached agreement on the historic \$16.4 billion *National Health Reform Agreement*.

The Agreement represents a turning point for our health system as it will underpin the future financial sustainability of our public hospitals. The reforms are crucial to ensure future generations can continue to access the health care services they need.

From 1 July 2012, the Commonwealth will commence paying hospitals on the basis of activity they undertake. The price for hospital treatments will be separately determined by the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority to ensure an efficient price is set and that the right amount of funding is provided to hospitals when it is needed.

This agreement will ensure that future generations of Australians enjoy world class health care by increasing funding in our public health system into the future.

Projected financial benefit to the States and Territories arising from the National Health Reform Agreement



Investing in regional hospitals and health care

Delivering 76 new health infrastructure projects

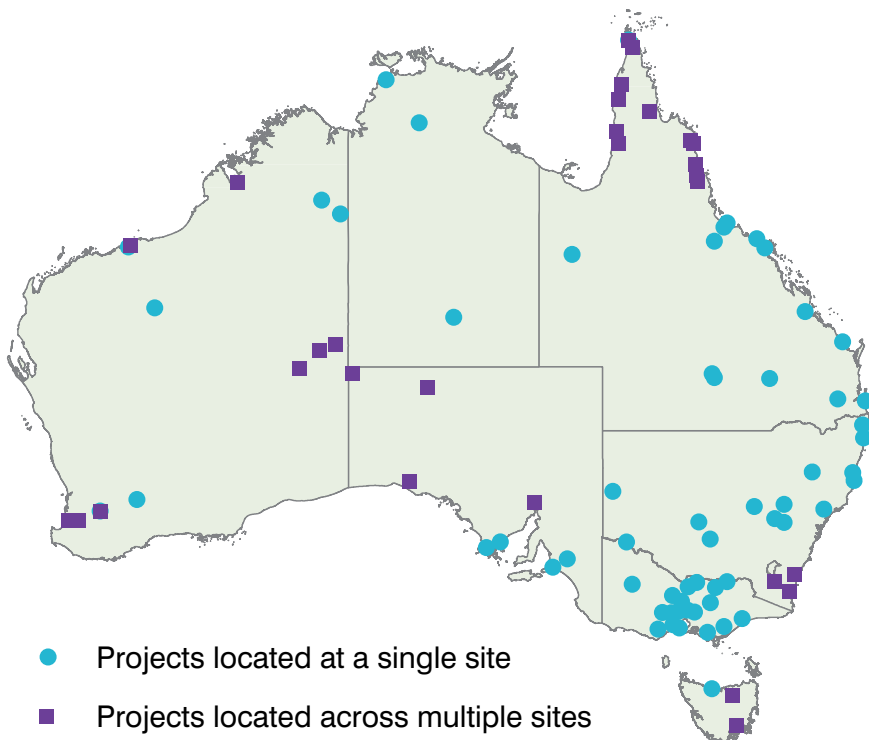
The Government is investing \$475 million to deliver an additional 76 major regional health and hospital infrastructure projects across Australia.

This investment will help to ensure that all Australians have access to the health care they need, when and where they need it, by providing new and upgraded facilities, creating new beds and more services. This investment will also improve the clinical training capacity of regional hospitals to help attract, train and retain doctors and nurses in the bush.

Health and Hospitals Fund (HHF) funding of \$2.8 million for the Narrogin General Dental Clinic will mean that the residents of Narrogin, Western Australia will now be able to access services locally rather than driving two to three hours for dental treatment.

This latest \$475 million investment completes the \$1.8 billion HHF Regional Priority Round announced in the 2011-12 Budget and forms part of the Government's total HHF investment of \$5 billion since 2009.

Latest regional health infrastructure projects across Australia



Redeveloped Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) Base at Mount Isa

The RFDS Mount Isa Base in Queensland received Government funding under the first regional-specific round of the Health and Hospitals Fund. The Mount Isa Base provides primary health care and medical services to the Northwest Queensland region.

This new primary care facility will enhance the vital services provided to the residents in the Northwest Queensland region.

In 2009-10 the medical services delivered from the Base included more than 7,500 patient consultations, approximately 1,800 immunisations and conducting over 900 medical clinics.

This round of the Health and Hospitals Fund includes \$4.2 million for the Royal Flying Doctor Service in Charleville, Roma and the Pilbara and Kimberley regions.



Building our Maths and Science knowledge

The Chief Scientist's report to the Prime Minister made recommendations to encourage students to study maths and science in school and at university.

The Government's response seeks to:

- enhance Australia's long-term human capital and productivity, with measures spanning school and tertiary education;
- promote quality maths and science teaching from primary school through to university;
- encourage high-performing students to continue their studies from school to university and ultimately on to careers in maths and science; and
- train more students in the fields that will be important to meet emerging skills needs and prepare Australian students for the 21st century.

Investing in 21st century education

Support for mathematics and science studies

The Government is providing \$54 million to fund new initiatives in response to the Chief Scientist's report *Mathematics, Engineering and Science in the National Interest*. The Budget includes:

- a new *Australian Mathematics and Science Partnership Program* to support outreach from universities to schools;
- the development of innovative approaches to training prospective mathematics and science teachers; and
- assistance to foster long term partnerships between school teachers and scientists or mathematicians.

Demand driven funding and improved access for university students

The Budget provides an additional \$23.4 million to help disadvantaged students succeed, increasing the total investment in the *Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program* and other equity measures to over \$1 billion over the next four years.

From 2012, Commonwealth funding for undergraduate places is entirely demand driven, with an additional \$5.2 billion in Commonwealth funding for universities between 2010 and 2015 to fund the extra places.

Delivering quality schooling for all students

The Government has made record investments in schools, including providing upgrades to infrastructure at over 9,500 Australian schools and delivering a computer for every year 9 to 12 student across the country.

The Government is now working with all stakeholders in considering the proposals of the Gonski Review, to deliver the best and fairest funding model for all schools.

Building on our investment in skills

Skills for jobs and growth

The Government is building on its \$3 billion investment in skills in the last Budget with an additional \$101 million to enhance reforms to vocational education and training (VET) and support the up-skilling and re-skilling of mature age workers.

The Government has now signed the landmark \$1.75 billion National Partnership Agreement with the States and Territories, agreeing sweeping reform of the VET system to:

- improve access, through a national entitlement to training and expanded access to HECS-style income contingent loans;
- increase quality and transparency, through greater information about courses, costs and training provider quality on the new *My Skills* website; and
- promote equity, through additional incentives to improve completion rates, particularly for disadvantaged students.

Through the National Workforce Development Fund, the Government is funding an estimated 130,000 new industry focused training places over five years.

In addition, hundreds of new industry based mentors will support more than 12,000 apprentices over the next year under the *Apprenticeship Mentoring Program*.



Skills Connect in action

The Government's skills and participation initiatives are already benefiting hundreds of businesses and thousands of workers.

For example, in April 2012 the Government and Woolworths signed a landmark jobs compact. Under the *Fresh Start Agreement*, the Government is setting up a one-stop-shop to ensure that Woolworths has streamlined access to the full range of jobs, skills and training services to support, train and up-skill their workers, including:

- Skills Connect, utilising the National Workforce Development Fund;
- employment programs and access to apprenticeship incentives, including indigenous employment and pre-apprenticeship programs; and
- Wage Connect.

This support from the Government will ensure that a diverse range of new and existing workers are able to find a job and improve their skills.



Unlocking the Economic Potential of Senior Australians

An active ageing agenda

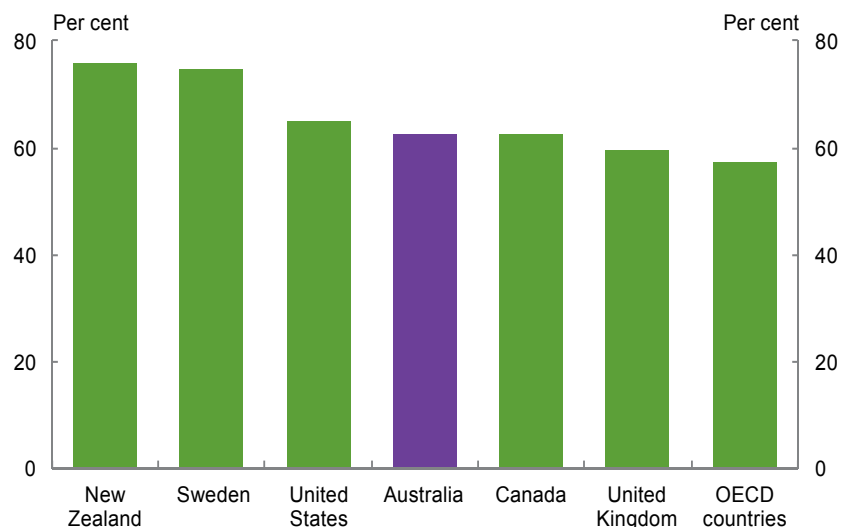
The Budget includes a number of new initiatives in response to the Final Report of the Advisory Panel on the Economic Potential of Senior Australians, to help Australia best respond to the opportunities presented by a larger and more active community of seniors, such as:

- supporting employers through the *Corporate Champions* initiative to recruit and retain an older workforce, including a new \$1,000 jobs bonus for employers who recruit and retain a mature age job seeker;
- expanding the *More Help for Mature Age Workers* initiative to allow industries to benefit from improving the skills of their over 50s workforce;
- extending the *Career Advice Service* for two years to ensure mature age people have access to free, professional career advice;
- promoting lifelong learning by establishing a new *Productive Ageing through Community Education* program;
- funding for the Age Discrimination Commissioner to address discrimination and stereotyping of older Australians; and
- a new Advisory Panel on Positive Ageing to consult with communities and seniors on a range of issues and help drive the Government's ageing agenda.

Opportunities of an ageing workforce

- Seniors are not only living longer, they are generally better educated, healthier and more financially secure.
- The majority of people aged 65 and over live independent active lives.
- The employment and participation rates of mature age people have shown solid growth over the last ten years.
- However, once unemployed, mature age people can find it difficult to re-enter the labour market, particularly those with limited education or skills that are not in demand.
- The Government recognises that their involvement in the community and workforce offers great benefits.
- The \$41 million Government response is providing older Australians with more options to participate longer and more actively in all aspects of the community and economy.

Comparison of mature age participation rate (55-64 years) in Australia and selected other countries



Source: OECD 2010 data

Boosting participation in employment

Increased investment in Jobs, Education and Training Child Care Fee Assistance (JETCCFA)

JETCCFA assists eligible parents to access high quality and affordable child care so that they can participate in the workforce.

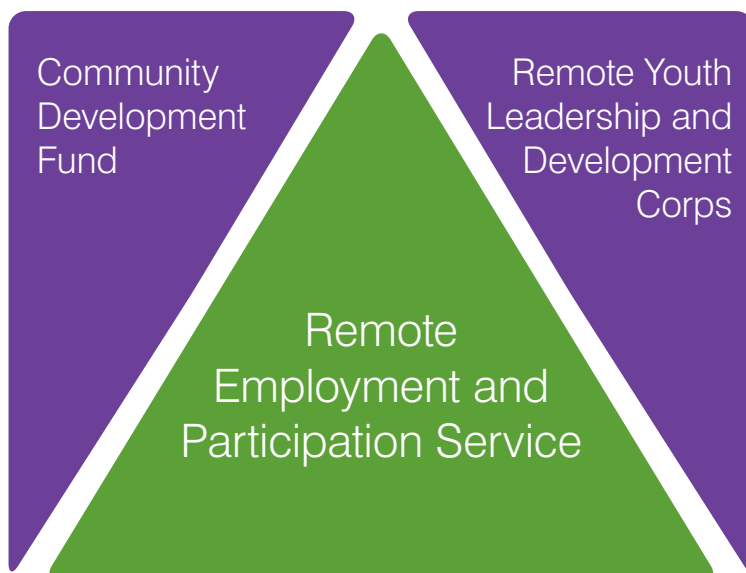
The Government is committing an additional \$225.1 million over four years to respond to growing demand for the program.

A new Remote Jobs and Communities Program

From 1 July 2013, the \$1.5 billion new *Remote Jobs and Communities Program* will provide a more integrated and flexible approach to employment and participation services for people living in remote areas of Australia.

The *Remote Jobs and Communities Program* will see jobseekers assisted by a single provider with a permanent presence in their region, ensuring they are receiving better support to obtain the skills needed to get a job.

A new Remote Jobs and Communities Program



Pathways to sustainable jobs in remote areas

- The new 'jobs first' *Remote Participation and Employment Service* establishes a one-stop-shop for employment support and community development in remote communities.
- The Government will establish a new \$240 million *Community Development Fund* to build capacity in remote communities to help support employment growth.
- A new flagship program, the *Remote Youth Leadership and Development Corps*, will provide a formalised pathway into employment for up to 12,000 young people.
- This new approach, incorporating both employment services and community development, will enable and empower communities to respond to their local needs.

