



## Federal Budget Response 2025–26

### RACGP response to the Federal Budget

- ✓ The RACGP applauds the bipartisan commitment to train 2,000 additional GPs every year by 2028, the extra 100 Commonwealth Support Places for medical students per year from 2026, and incentives for junior doctors to become specialist GPs.
- ✓ We welcome the size of the investment in general practice and Medicare – \$8.5 billion – after decades of underinvestment. The previously announced election commitments and now the federal budget make it clear that both the Government and the Opposition recognise the value of general practice care.
- ! We are concerned the design of the plan may not deliver the expected increase in bulk billing rates because patient rebates are still too low to cover the cost of care. This is particularly concerning for those who need more time with their GP to better manage chronic disease and complex healthcare needs.
- ! Urgent Care Clinics have not been evaluated and we are concerned they are not cost-effective. General practices and GPs routinely provide urgent care to their patients. The best way to increase access to urgent care and ease pressure on hospitals is to support existing general practices expand their current services including offering more after-hours services.

### Highlights

- \$265.4 million to expand GP training, with an extra 200 training places per year from 2026, increasing to an extra 400 places per year from 2028.
- \$248.7 million for incentives for junior doctors to become specialist GPs and to provide parental leave and study leave for GP trainees, putting them on the same level as their hospital-based colleagues.
- \$45.0 million for 100 new medical Commonwealth Supported Places per year from 2026, increasing to 150 per year from 2028.
- \$44.0 million for an extra 200 rotations for junior doctors in primary health care per year from 2026, increasing to an extra 400 per year from 2028.
- \$7.9 billion to expand the tripled GP bulk billing incentives to all Australians and create an additional new incentive payment for practices that bulk bill every patient.
- \$792.9 million package for women's health, including funding for menopause health assessments and increased funding for long-acting reversible contraception. It also includes the development of national guidelines for menopause and perimenopause, and for new generation contraceptive pills to be listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.
- \$228.7 million in 2025–26 to continue modernising My Health Record and support the digital health reform agenda.
- \$5.7 to improve electronic prescribing infrastructure and services Australia-wide.

### What's missing from the Federal Budget?

- Higher patient rebates for specialist GP consultations longer than 20 minutes to ensure vulnerable Australians can access the healthcare that is essential to helping them manage complex conditions.
- Increased patient rebates for GP mental healthcare so all Australians can access high-quality mental health care when they need it.
- Support to build general practice-based Multidisciplinary Care Teams through the Workforce Incentive Payment.
- Establishing a national practice-based research network enhancing high-quality general practice care.
- Funding to reduce the impact of racism in healthcare.

*The RACGP will continue to advocate for these initiatives to ensure accessible, affordable general practice care for all Australia.*

### About the RACGP



60+ years as  
the voice of GPs



50,000+ members  
across Australia



4 out of 5  
rural GPs are members

### GP training



Trains 90%  
of GPs



20% enrolment  
increased in 2024



Secured 583 new GPs  
for rural, regional and  
remote communities  
in 2024/25

### GPs keeping Australia healthy



22m

people see a GP  
each year



<2%

of people reported  
they were unable  
to see a GP when  
they needed to in  
2022–23



164m

services  
delivered by GPs  
in 2023–24

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