



2025-26 Federal Budget (handed down Tues 25 March 2025) – ANZCA related initiatives

2025-26 Federal Budget information for the health sector is located at:

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/budget-2025-26>.

Summary:

This year's Federal health sector budget predominately focused on the following three main components:

- primary care - more general practitioners, increased bulk billing services and additional urgent care clinics (diverting emergency department activity),
- cheaper medicines through new listings on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), and
- More choice, lower costs and better healthcare for women.

Specific measures relating to ANZCA and our anaesthesia and pain medicine operating environment are provided below.

Increase in Commonwealth supported medical student places

Relates to: Medical students

- \$48.4m for an extra 100 Commonwealth Supported Places for medical students per year from 2026, increasing to 150 per year by 2028, and demand-driven places for First Nations students to study medicine.

Nurse and midwifery scholarships

Relates to: Nurse practitioners and scope of practice

- \$10.5m over two years for 400 additional scholarships for nurses and midwives to undertake postgraduate study to extend their skills and qualifications and become a nurse practitioner or endorsed midwife.

Education for provision of maternity or maternity-related services

Relates to: Medical professionals who assist in the provision of maternity or maternity-related services

- \$1.3m to extend the Obstetrics and Gynaecological Education and Training Program to upskill and provide training opportunities for a range of medical professionals who assist in the provision of maternity or maternity-related services, particularly in rural and remote areas.

Additional endometriosis and pelvic pain clinics

Relates to: Faculty of Pain Medicine

- Additional 11 endometriosis and pelvic pain clinics will open across Australia (\$19.6m).
- The scope of the network (33 clinics) will expand so they can also help women experiencing menopause and perimenopause.
- \$17.5m over three years for a public health campaign and additional training on menopause and perimenopause for health professionals to help women have informed discussions with their doctor or health professional, and the development of the first ever national guidelines.

PBS medications for endometriosis pain

Relates to: Faculty of Pain Medicine

- Around 8,500 Australian women could save more than \$2,300 a year from the listing of relugolix with estradiol and with norethisterone (Ryepo®) on the PBS. The listing will help women experiencing moderate to severe pain from endometriosis who cannot get adequate relief from other hormonal treatments and painkillers.

NSW Central Coast hospital upgrades

Relates to: NSW hospital services

- Upgrades to improve antenatal and postnatal services at Gosford and Wyong Hospitals, along with workforce support and training (\$10m).

Southern Tasmania hospital upgrades

Relates to: TAS hospital services

- Royal Hobart Hospital and Calvary Healthcare will be supported to manage an expected increase in demand for maternity services in Southern Tasmania through infrastructure and equipment upgrades (\$6m).