



# Budget 2025–26

This information is accurate as of 25 March 2025.

## Strengthening Medicare – expanding Medicare Urgent Care Clinics

This measure will boost the Medicare Urgent Care Clinics (Medicare UCC) program. It builds on successive investments since the 2022–23 October Budget, supporting the Australian Government's commitment to strengthening Medicare.

This measure aims to increase accessibility to free urgent health care. It also aims to reduce the number of patients with less urgent conditions attending public hospital emergency departments, allowing hospitals to focus on more life-threatening cases.

This measure will:

- expand the program with a further 50 Medicare UCCs, bringing the total to 137 clinics nationally
- cover Medicare Benefit Schedule (MBS) flow-on costs and authority associated with the additional clinics, where required
- extend MBS billing for 10 state-funded urgent care sites in Victoria
- extend the Batemans Bay Medicare UCC opening hours.

Services Australia will get \$2.4 million over 3 financial years to continue to support through to 2027–28.

This measure is led by the Department of Health and Aged Care.

This measure isn't subject to legislation passing.

### Who this measure affects

This benefits Australians who'll be able to get the urgent care they need in more locations, through more service providers.

### When this starts and finishes

This measure starts 1 July 2025 and ends on 30 June 2028.

The extension of MBS billing for 10 state-funded urgent care sites in Victoria ends on 30 June 2026.

The extended opening hours for Batemans Bay Medicare UCC will start on 1 October 2025.