



# Budget 2025–26

This information is accurate as of 25 March 2025.

## Strengthening Medicare – health workforce

This measure will provide:

- paid parental leave, study leave and salary incentive payments for general practitioner (GP) registrars
- indexation for existing payments already provided under the National Consistent Payment (NCP) framework.

Current models show a growing national shortfall of GPs, which will impact patient access to primary health care. This measure will help attract more doctors to vocational GP training, remove barriers to enter GP training by aligning incentives nationally, and encourage the participation of more supervisors and practices in GP training.

The proposal includes the following changes:

- 5 days of paid leave per year to prepare for exams and assessments and attend professional development opportunities outside the practice
- 20 weeks of paid parental leave for eligible GP registrars, at a rate reflective of expected remuneration for the level of training
- a \$30,000 incentive payment to first-year GP registrars on Commonwealth-funded pathways, paid in monthly instalments
- indexation of existing NCP payments, consistent with Wage Cost Index.

New payments and changes to existing payments will start 1 January 2026. The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine will determine eligibility for these automated payments.

Services Australia will receive \$1.3 million from 2025–26 through to 2028–29 to support implementation of the new and modified payments through enhancing systems and business processes.

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

This measure is not subject to legislation passing.

### Who this measure affects

This measure affects eligible GP registrars that are part of the Australian GP Training Program in Australia.

### When this starts and finishes

This measure starts on 1 January 2026 and is ongoing.