

## Highlights of 2021-22 Federal Budget Measures May 2021

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### Volunteering and Community Connectedness

A new 'Volunteering and Community Connectedness' funding stream brings together three existing programs: Volunteer Management Activity, Volunteer Grants and the Strong and Resilient Communities Activity.

- Allocated funds are \$79,481,000 (2021-22), \$61,948,000 (2022-23), \$61,806,000 (2023-24) and \$56,669 000 (2024-25).
- DSS has confirmed that funds for Volunteer Grants have been allocated at circa \$10 million p.a. to 2024-25 and the Volunteer Management Activity at circa \$6 million p.a. plus indexation to 2024-25 (\$33.5 million over five years).
- A further \$6.6 million has been allocated to the Volunteer Management Activity in 2021-22 to support the re-design of the scheme.
- A one-off sum of \$3.4 million has been allocated to develop and improve volunteer management IT infrastructure.

### Other highlights relevant to volunteering

- Establishment of the new National Recovery and Resilience Agency (NRRA), which includes \$600 million for the Preparing Australia Program (which aims to improve long-term resilience of communities) and the new Australian Climate Service.
  - The NRRA will also oversee the new \$280 million Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants program (which supports ongoing medium-term recovery needs of impacted communities) and the National Recovery Capability Package (which will develop a regional recovery exercising program toolkit and two new pilot Resilience Hubs).
  - An additional \$13.2 billion has been allocated over four years from 2020-21 for the National Disability Insurance Scheme. In addition, the Australian Government will streamline arrangements for the care and support sector, including aligning worker screening arrangements across the NDIS, aged care and veterans' support from 1 July 2021.
  - Additional funding for aged care of \$17.7 billion has been allocated to reform aged care and respond to the Royal Commission into Aged Care.
    - o A new support at home program will replace the Commonwealth Home Support Programme, Home Care Packages, Short-Term Restorative Care and residential respite programs – to commence from July 2023.
    - o The Commonwealth Home Support Programme will be extended for one year to 30 June 2023 while preparing for and designing the new program (\$10.8 million).
    - o To inform future policy development and evaluation, \$6.3 million has been provided to improve workforce data reporting and enhance linkages with other aged care data sets.
  - Investment of \$2.3 billion in the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan. This includes:
    - o \$111.2 million in digital services, including the creation of a single digital platform under Head to Health that will provide online professional counselling, peer support, clinical support and referrals.
    - o \$487.2 million over four years from 2021-22 to establish a network of Head to Health adult mental health centres and satellites to provide accessible, coordinated, multidisciplinary care.
    - o \$278.6 million over four years from 2021-22 to expand and enhance headspace youth mental health services, in conjunction with the states and territories.
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- \$171.3 million to ensure continued access to Commonwealth psychosocial support services for 2 years, from 2021–22, under a single consolidated system.
- \$117.2 million to establish a comprehensive evidence base that measures whether Australia's mental health system is operating effectively.
- A new program of measures to support women and women's safety at home, in the workplace and in the community. This includes:
  - \$260 million over two years to states and territories under a new National Partnership Agreement to bolster frontline family, domestic and sexual violence supports.
- Further funding to support the COVID-19 health response and vaccination roll-out, which includes:
  - \$1.2 billion to partner with states and territories to support the roll out of the COVID-19 vaccine and ensure swift and flexible responses to COVID-19 outbreaks and transmissions.
  - \$169.8 million to ensure access to safe services, medicines and up-to-date information on COVID-19. This includes \$87.5 million to support GP-led Respiratory Clinics treat patients, \$11.5 million to deliver the Home Medicine Service, and \$7.1 million to ensure mental wellbeing service support through Beyond Blue.
  - \$90 million for the COVID-19 Aged Care Viability Fund to ensure Residential Aged Care providers financial sustainability, and funding to support workers and Residential Aged Care residents to be COVID-19 safe
- Funding of \$146 million over four years from 2021-22 for initiatives to prevent child sexual abuse. These initiatives will contribute to the First Commonwealth Action Plan (2021-2025) under the National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse 2021-2031.
- Funding of \$124.7 million over two years allocated to extend Social and Community Services funding (which replaced Equal Remuneration Order (ERO) supplementation) in the homelessness sector.
- \$245.8 million in funding for sport, which includes support for Olympians and Paralympians, and grants for National Sporting Organisations to support 56 high performance programs and other community sporting initiatives.
  - \$12 million for Football Australia's high performance program for the Matildas in the lead up to the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023, and community engagement encouraging women and girls' participation.
  - \$5 million for Basketball Australia to plan and deliver the FIBA Women's World Cup 2022 and increase female participation and leadership in basketball.
- \$3.0 million in 2021-22 for the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award in Australia to encourage young people to volunteer time in their communities, participate in sport and recreational activities, and develop social skills.
- \$12.2 million over four years from 2020-21 for measures to prevent drowning and injury from water and snow-related sport, which includes funding to Surf Life Saving Australia to invest in equipment and to provide vocational education and training to volunteers.

On Budget night, the Australian Government also published two key age care documents:

- The Australian Government [response](#) to the final report of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. In this document, the Government accepts the Royal Commission's Recommendation 44 which relates to volunteers in aged care.
  - Respect, care, dignity – a generational [plan](#) for aged care in Australia.
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## About Volunteering Australia

Volunteering Australia is the national peak body for volunteering, working to advance volunteering in the Australian community. The seven State and Territory volunteering peak bodies work to advance and promote volunteering in their respective jurisdictions and are Foundation Members of Volunteering Australia.

Volunteering Australia's vision is strong, connected communities through volunteering. Our mission is to lead, strengthen, promote and celebrate volunteering in Australia.