

Summary analysis:

- Carers Australia is disappointed there are few measures in the budget which specifically support carers
- Increased cost of living and the ageing population combined mean that support for carers is critical and urgent
- Carers will benefit from some other broader measures which are aimed at a broader group of people
- Carers Australia will continue to advocate for our [five key asks](#), which we judge are both realistic and would lead to better outcomes for carers

Detail:

The Budget includes two new tax cuts, energy relief, changes to Medicare, increases to wages in key industries, provision of better access to Urgent Care Clinics and safeguards to the integrity of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). While there are few specific measures in the Budget which directly support carers, carers will benefit from some of the generic measures which impact on the broader population. These include:

- A \$150 energy rebate off electricity bills (\$75 per quarter for the second half of 2025)
- A lower tax rate on taxable income between \$18,201 and \$45,000 to 15% from 1 July 2022, and further to 14% from 1 July 2027. A worker on average earnings will get a new tax cut of \$268 in 2026–27 and \$536 per year from 2027–28
- The Government will ban non-complete clauses for low- and middle-income employees, this encourages increased wages and freedom to move to higher-paying jobs
- The Help to Buy housing scheme will give first home buyers the opportunity to own properties with lower deposits and smaller mortgages. This will allow those in the care sector an opportunity to enter a challenging housing market
- 9 out of 10 GP visits will be bulk billed by 2030.

Young carers:

- Will likely to benefit from increased funding under the 10-year Better and Fairer Schools Agreement which will include more individualised and intensive supports for students. As well as more health support in schools.

Veterans:

- The Department of Veterans' Affairs is investing in volunteer training in suicide recognition and intervention to benefit veterans, carers, family members, and friends of veterans, along with volunteers who work with veterans and their families.

- Up to 2,000 participants are expected to participate in this training and support the veteran community. A further \$11.9 million in 2025-26 has been provided to support continued access to key health and support programs for veterans and families

Disability:

- The Budget provides a total of \$175.4 million over 4 years from 2025–26 to further safeguard the integrity of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and support people with disability
- A further \$42.2 million will be provided to deliver the National Autism Strategy and \$17.1 million to set up the Accessible Australia program to increase disability inclusion through using a more accessible public infrastructure.

Health:

- The Government is investing 7.9 billion to strengthen Medicare through increased access to bulkbilling and incentives to boost the primary healthcare workforce and \$644.3 million to set up 50 extra Medicare Urgent Care Clinics.
- The Government is lowering the maximum cost of medicines on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) for everyone with a Medicare card and no concession card. From 1 January 2026, the maximum co-payment will be lowered from \$31.60 to \$25 per script and will remain frozen at \$7.70 for pensioners.
- A \$792.9 million package to deliver more choice, lower costs and better care for health care for women.

Education:

- Early Childhood: The Government is funding \$426.6 million for the new 3 Day Guarantee, which replaces the Child Care Subsidy Activity Test. This allows parents 3 days a week of subsidised early childhood education and care.
- The Government is delivering free TAFE to drive better access to vocational training opportunities and to help deliver on Australia's skills needs. This will be particularly beneficial to the younger carer-cohort who are struggling to pay for tuition fees.
- The Government is creating 100,000 free TAFE places every year from 1 January 2027, subject to the passage of legislation.