

# MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 27 October 2022



Aboriginal  
Health & Medical  
Research Council  
of NSW

Our People to Live Stronger and Longer.

## AH&MRC Welcomes the 2022-23 Federal Budget

This week, Treasurer Jim Chalmers delivered the 2022-23 Federal Budget.

The AH&MRC particularly welcomes the \$314 million allocated towards Aboriginal Health, which fulfils the ALP's election commitments. Notably, only \$30 million will be spent in this financial year. The package includes:

- **\$164.3 million** over 4 years to invest in modern health clinics in areas of large and growing Aboriginal communities;
- **\$14.2 million** over 3 years to tackle Rheumatic Heart Disease in high-risk Aboriginal communities;
- **\$22.5 million** over 3 years for a dedicated Birthing on Country Centre of Excellence at Waminda (an AH&MRC Member); and
- **\$54.3 million** over 4 years to deliver up to 500 First Nations traineeships, the lion share of which the AH&MRC would like to see diverted to New South Wales, which accounts for 34 per cent of the national Aboriginal population.

The Government also announced a \$143.3 million investment (over 4 years) in rural and regional health. The package includes measures to support primary care services, training, workforce incentives and trials for innovative models of care. The AH&MRC hopes that this funding will have real, on-the-ground impacts, for our members in regional New South Wales who have faced persistent workforce shortages, on top of the many challenges of delivering healthcare in remote communities.

An additional \$13.0 million (over 4 years) was allocated towards mental health supports for communities impacted by major flooding in New South Wales. This includes \$8.5 million for youth mental health services in Ballina and Hawkesbury and \$4.4 million for urgent mental health supports for impacted communities. This funding is much needed for the AH&MRC's members in the Northern Rivers, who have been calling for mental health and infrastructure funding to support their communities to address the ongoing trauma and rebuild.

These are just a few in a large suite of Aboriginal health initiatives. The AH&MRC commends the Federal government for its commitment, however, acknowledges that there is still a long way to go in closing the health gap for our communities.

For media inquiries, please contact:  
Amanda Paterson, Marketing Manager, on 0410548061

**About AH&MRC:**

The Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council (AH&MRC) is the Aboriginal health peak body in New South Wales. The AH&MRC represents 49 Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations who provide comprehensive, holistic, and culturally safe primary health care to Aboriginal communities across the State.

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