

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

11 May 2021

Through the 2021-22 Budget process the Australian Government will be investing \$12.7 million to improve the health and care of people with an intellectual disability including:

\$6.7 million for Annual Health Assessments (AHAs)

This measure will improve the uptake and implementation of Annual Health Assessments (AHAs) for people with intellectual disability. AHAs are a key mechanism for improving preventive health care and management of chronic and complex conditions among people with intellectual disability. Increased uptake of AHAs supported by using the CHAP tool will be critical in helping to address the health inequities and especially poor health outcomes experienced by people with intellectual disability.

\$1.4 million for scoping and co-design of a National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health

This measure will enable scoping and co-design of a model for a National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health. Efforts will focus on national leadership and coordination, and the development of a sustainable model that leverages existing expertise and institutions to improve the quality of health care delivered to people with intellectual disability.

\$4.6 million for intellectual disability health curriculum development

This measure will support further consultation on the inclusion of mandatory competencies in health care for people with intellectual disability in tertiary education health curricula, and the development of specific and specialised curricula content. This will better equip health professionals to provide quality care for people with intellectual disability. Specifically, this measure will enable:

- a review of current accreditation standards to identify principles, competencies and learning outcomes that help meet the health needs of people with intellectual disability;
- a suite of resources to be developed that helps teaching institutions to deliver effective and appropriate training on intellectual disability health;
- establishment of an intellectual disability health online hub as a central repository for materials, teaching resources and case studies; and
- establishment of a national advisory committee to support implementation.

There are also other measures in the Budget, including in the aged care and mental health packages, that will contribute to improving the health of people with intellectual disability, but they have not been specifically earmarked at this time.

More information will be published on the Department of Health website in due course (<https://www.health.gov.au/Budget-2021>).

Existing Initiatives

Investment in the Primary Care Enhancement Program for people with intellectual disability

Initiatives in the 2021-22 Budget build on the investment of \$6.6 million over four years (from 2020-21) for the development of the Primary Care Enhancement Program (PCEP) for people with intellectual disability.

The PCEP is under way in four Primary Health Networks and is beginning to provide more support to GPs and other health professionals so they can more effectively care for people with intellectual

disability. It is also starting to give people with intellectual disability better access to appropriate, quality health services that meet their needs.

Finalisation of the National Roadmap for Improving the Health of People with Intellectual Disability

Following the completion of consultations with stakeholders on 31 March 2021, the Department of Health is now finalising the National Roadmap for Improving the Health of People with Intellectual Disability. Effective implementation of the Roadmap will require the support and collaborative action of not only Government but also the disability sector, health professionals, the university sector, medical and other health colleges, and regulatory organisations. The Department looks forward to continuing to work with these groups and other stakeholders to implement these initiatives and other proposed actions under the National Roadmap.

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