

ADEA analysis of health measures in the 2020 Federal Budget

The 2020 Federal Budget was announced last night and ADEA welcomes the Government's investment in improving the care and quality of the aged care system and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health.

"The implementation of the \$550 million Stronger Rural Health Strategy will also give doctors more opportunities to train and practise in rural and remote Australia, giving nurses and allied health professionals, including Credentialed Diabetes Educators (CDEs) a greater role in the delivery of multidisciplinary, team-based primary care," said ADEA CEO, Susan Davidson.

ADEA also welcomes the \$2.4 billion total investment in telehealth and the commitment to mental health.

"The introduction of telehealth has been a revolution in the delivery of primary care.

Ms Davidson said, "COVID-19 has accelerated the uptake of telehealth services for our members and we are pleased with the positive feedback we have received from our members and other allied health professionals.

"This service has been crucial for the management and care of people with diabetes throughout this pandemic and we will certainly be advocating for its extension beyond 31 March 2021."

In addition to last night's budget announcements, the listing on the PBS from 1 July 2020 of Ozempic® (semaglutide), for the treatment of type 2 diabetes, means that around 40,000 people per year may benefit from this treatment. Without the PBS subsidy, people with diabetes may have to pay around \$1,700 per course of treatment.

"The 2020 Budget does not include any detail about investment in preventive health measures, but notes the development of a comprehensive National Preventive Health Strategy.

"ADEA supports the development of a National Preventive Health Strategy which includes early intervention, and which is directed at reducing health risks and addressing the range of factors that are critical to healthy living, including the social, environmental, political, commercial and cultural factors that influence people's health. Climate change will have a significant impact on public health in the coming decades, and ADEA would like to see climate change and other environmental issues addressed in the Strategy. Preventive health will be an area of advocacy that ADEA will be collaborating on with a range of other health organisations," said Ms Davidson.

More information on the Minister for Health's 2020 Budget announcement can be found [here](#).