

Cystic Fibrosis Queensland and Trusted Care

CEO State Budget 2023-24 Response

Cystic Fibrosis Queensland and Trusted Care welcome the financial relief being provided at this time but would like to see even more funding to support critical health and disability services. The work in the budget allocated to Health is a good starting point and we will continue to advocate for increased funding to support chronic illness and disability.

While individuals and families are the primary beneficiaries of most of the relief measures, businesses received some concessions. This means that for Cystic Fibrosis Queensland members and the clients of Trusted Care, there are some direct wins.

Individuals

- Retirees, pensioners, low-income families, school-leavers, and other concession card holders will receive the highest cost of living rebates, including an additional \$700 energy rebate. Those on concession cards will continue to receive an extra \$372 concession, as well as an additional \$150 cost-of-living payment, for a total package of \$1,072.
- Seniors targeted by youth crime will be entitled to receive part of the \$30 million contribution to safeguarding their homes with funding doubling from \$15 million to \$30 million.
- Queensland families with kids aged 0-4 will be eligible for \$150 swimming lesson vouchers in a new SwimStart program aimed at teaching kids how to swim.
- One of the centrepieces of the budget is the \$645 million promised over four years to fund 15 hours per week of kindergarten for all four-year-old children, meaning an average saving of \$4,600 for many Queensland families.
- Over two years, \$2.7 million will be spent to expand school breakfast programs in areas experiencing hardship across Queensland.
- Eligible small businesses will receive an automatic \$650 rebate on their electricity bills.

Some other cost-of-living measures include:

- \$670.5 million towards the Government Managed Housing Rental Rebate Scheme
- \$70 million over four years to increase accommodation and fuel subsidies under the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme
- \$22 million of additional funding over four years to support the Nursing and Midwifery Student Regional Placements Allowance of \$5,000 per student.
- \$83.2 million for parents and caregivers of secondary school-aged students for the Textbook and Resource Allowance
- \$23.1 million to reduce the cost of replacing Queensland driver licences, photo identification cards and industry authority cards to \$35.
- \$315 to provide grant funding to Foodbank to deliver critical food relief.

Health

The state's health budget in the next financial year will be a record \$25.8 billion — a 9.6 per cent increase — which is the largest jump in health spending in Queensland's history.

The \$2.888 billion increase will be used to tackle ongoing issues like ambulance ramping. There is also \$72 million for 200 more paramedics and \$28 million for new and replacement ambulances. The opening of seven satellite hospitals flagged in last year's budget is expected to go ahead in 2023/24.

The government has set aside an additional \$586 million over 10 years to LifeFlight, for on-going emergency medical helicopter services to those in rural, regional, and remote Queensland — giving the program certainty for the next decade.

It will be used to upgrade equipment including a modern power-stretcher loading system compatible with Queensland Ambulance Service stretchers and the Royal Flying Doctor Service, as well as to upgrade ageing helicopters, create centralised maintenance facilities and invest in aeromedical infrastructure in regional Queensland.

Meanwhile, \$42 million will be provided over four years for the expansion of obstetrics and gynaecology services for women in rural and remote communities — including telehealth-enabled care and support for birthing services.

The Redland Hospital will get \$150 million to build a new mental health facility, with its current building to be rebuilt and its capacity increased by 20 beds, for a total of 43 beds.



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