

Budget 2024–25

Australia Cares takeaways

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A necessary focus on care

“ One of the best and most important things about our country is the way we look out for each other and look after each other. Our health system and our care economy are central to this.

Treasurer’s speech, 2024–25 Federal Budget



New measures

29 new Medicare Urgent Care Clinics

24,000 additional home care packages

Price freeze on PBS-listed medicines

Wage increases for aged care and early childhood workers

Inequality focus added to medical research fund

New mental health initiative

The Challenge

“ Listen to community at every level of decision making

Westmead People’s Assembly participant

“Western societies have tended to put care on the bottom rung of what we value. We need to challenge this way of thinking, look to the future and centre policymaking on the experience of people receiving and giving care.”



Professor Brendan McCormack
Academic Chair, Australia Cares

“Supporting community members, policymakers and experts to work together across disciplines and portfolios is critical to realising a long-term vision for care.”



Dr Kate Harrison Brennan
Director, Sydney Policy Lab

Why Australia Cares?

Care is fundamental to who we are, as individuals and a society.

The Australia Cares project enables community-led policy development shaped by lived experience, and community and academic expertise.

Since 2022, we have brought people from across Australia together for People’s Assemblies in Broken Hill and Westmead as well as Care Labs online, in person and at Parliament House.

In 2024, our community-centred policymaking on care continues.

