

FEDERAL BUDGET – OTHER MEASURES

For the discussion of the tax changes in the Federal Budget, refer to the relevant factsheet.

Medicare Levy

- Increases to the Medicare levy low-income thresholds
- Singles threshold increase from \$36,541 to \$37,089
- Single seniors and pensioners' threshold increase from \$47,670 to \$48,385
- Family income thresholds increase by a further \$3,406 for each dependent child or student

Fine Deductions

- Proposal to make compulsory deductions from the social security payments of “serial fine defaulters who have outstanding state and territory court-imposed fines”
- Commonwealth will be able to suspend or cancel social security payments of those who have outstanding State and Territory arrest warrants for indictable criminal offences

Robodebt

- From 1 July 2019 - DHS will focus debt recovery activities on ex-recipient debtors with high value debts not in a payment arrangement, and ex-recipient debtors in a payment arrangement with an identified capacity to pay more
- From 1 July 2021 - DHS will extend data matching activities with the Australian Taxation Office

Community Development Program

- CDP job seekers will be subject to the Jobseeker Compliance Framework
- Eligible employers will be able to apply for a two-year wage subsidy of up to \$21,034 for employing CDP job seekers in an approved job, with additional bonus payments based on job seeker retention
- Up to 6,000 wage subsidy positions will be available

NDIS

- New Disability Employment Services transition assistance - *\$10 million over two years, but none for Western Australia*
- Continuity of support for people who are not eligible for NDIS, but are currently receiving support under programs transitioning to NDIS - *\$92.1 million over the forward estimates*

Remote Housing

- Remote housing funding for the Northern Territory - *\$550 million*
- No funding for Western Australia

New Migrants



2018/19 BUDGET BRIEFING

New migrants lacking paid work will be left without income support for the first four years

Mental Health

There is no indication in the budget for how mental health services will interact with the NDIS

- Professional development in primary care for AOD treatment and support, and residential rehabilitation services - *\$40.3 million over 3 years from 2018-19*
- Mental Health Treatment for Australian Defence Force Reservists with Disaster Relief and Certain Other Service - *\$2.2 million over the forward estimates*
- Aftercare following a suicide attempt - *\$37.6 million over the forward estimates*
- Head to Health program - *\$4.7 million over 2 years from 2018-19*
- Lifeline Australia enhancements - *\$33.8 million over the forward estimates*
- Strengthening the National Mental Commission - *\$12.4 million over the forward estimates*
- Suicide prevention campaign - *\$1.2 million in 2018-19*
- Million Minds Mental Health Research Mission - *\$125 million over 10 years*