



## 2023-2024 Budget Highlights: Achievements for Lung Health

On behalf of the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ) and Lung Foundation Australia (LFA) we wanted to highlight achievements for lung health as a result of our continued advocacy.

Many of these achievements have come about from the strong partnership and collaboration between our respective members over many years. **We extend our thanks to all members who have worked so hard to achieve these important outcomes.**

- Following the approval by the Medical and Scientific Advisory Committee for an MBS item for **targeted lung cancer screening** \$267 million was announced over four years for the implementation of the program in full. In forward years \$101 million has been set aside for the continuance of the program.
- The approval of a range of reforms as part of the recently released National Tobacco Strategy including harmonised legislation, reform of e-cigarette prescribing and banning of recreational e-cigarettes. A total of \$247 million has been set aside over the forward estimates to support the implementation funded from a 5% increase in the tobacco excise. Funding includes:
  - \$29.5 million to enhance **smoking and e-cigarette cessation support**
  - \$141 million to expand the **Tackling Indigenous Smoking program**
  - \$63.4 million for **national smoking and e-cigarette public health campaigns**
- \$4.3 million has been set aside to continue research that supports **prevention and early intervention initiatives for chronic conditions.**
- \$10 million has been set aside in the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations to address occupational lung diseases. This is in response to the National Dust Disease Task Force Report and the National Silicosis Prevention Strategy and Action Plan currently being

finalised by Lung Foundation Australia. Funding includes:

- \$4.7 million to establish a dedicated occupational lung disease team in the Department to oversee the implementation of an **improved national framework for occupational lung diseases**
- \$4.2 to extend the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency remit to include the **prevention of silicosis and other silica related occupational lung diseases**
- \$1.2 million to Safe Work Australia's social partners to increase awareness and support better working practices relating to **managing silica dust in the workplace**

Whilst investment in health and medical research was not prominent in the budget, we understand continued investment in the MRFF Chronic Lung Diseases program is likely, as is ongoing Long COVID research with \$50 million approved.

Our respective organisations will continue to work together and with others to secure a long-term commitment to a Lung Health Mission and we are recommitting our efforts to secure research parity with other disease groups.

Tangible investments in the PBS, pharmacy prescribing, and the GP rebate tripling are all welcomed and likely to improve the quality of care for patients with lung disease and lung cancer.

I hope you can see that our combined efforts are achieving tangible results for lung health and our respective patient and health care professional community. We will continue work together to support our members.

Please feel reach out of our respective Chief Executive Officers for further details.

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