



# More support for vulnerable Australians

2019 Budget

The Australian Government recognises the value of robust investment in services and support to improve the wellbeing of vulnerable Australians.

## What was announced in the 2019 Budget?

The Australian Government will invest \$73.1 million through a number of initiatives to improve the wellbeing of vulnerable Australians - including children and young people, Indigenous students, migrants and refugees.

### Building social cohesion for newly arrived migrants - Expansion of the National Community Hubs program

An investment of \$20.4 million will extend and expand the National Community Hubs Program across the country.

This funding will create 32 new Hubs and fund the continuation of 68 existing Hubs, bringing the total number of Government funded Hubs to 100.

The Community Hubs aim to strengthen people's sense of belonging in Australian society and to increase the social and economic participation of community members by linking them to services such as skills training, employment services, English classes and volunteering opportunities.

## Key facts

- The National Community Hubs program provides valuable services and support for migrants, refugees, women and children, and other vulnerable groups to help them integrate and participate in their local communities.

### Building social cohesion for newly arrived migrants - National Youth Hubs Program trial

Using the successful approach from the National Community Hubs Program to support migrant and refugee women and young people aged 13-21, \$2.2 million will be allocated from 1 January 2020 to 30 June 2021 to establish a National Youth Hubs Program trial.

The trial will target hard to reach migrant and refugee women (mothers) and young people in areas of either high social disadvantage, high migrant population or both – including regional areas, and be delivered through high schools and suitable community facilities.

In particular, the program will target vulnerable migrant young people in preparation for employment and training, and to support their social integration and participation.

## Extending Family Tax Benefit to ABSTUDY recipients aged 16 and over who study away from home

To help Indigenous students stay in boarding school, the Australian Government has committed \$36.4 million to extend Family Tax Benefit to provide payment to families where an ABSTUDY student needs to live away from home to study, is aged 16-19 years and in full-time secondary study.

### Key facts

- The measure is designed to assist Indigenous students studying away from home and is in addition to the \$38.1 million the Australian Government invested into ABSTUDY from 1 January 2019. The new measure will provide more support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander secondary students who need to travel away from home to study.

## Social Impact Investing—payment by outcomes service delivery

\$14.1 million to establish three Social Impact Investment payment by outcome trials funding organisations based on the social outcomes they achieve.

Organisations will partner with Government to participate in the trial design, delivery and outcome measurement. This funding brings the Government's total investment in Social Impact Investing over \$55 million.

### Key facts

- Social impact investing is an emerging, outcomes-based approach that brings together governments, service providers, investors and communities to tackle a range of policy issues. It provides governments with an alternative and innovative mechanism to address social and environmental issues while also leveraging government and private sector capital, building a stronger culture of robust evaluation and evidenced-based decision making, and creating a heightened focus on outcomes.

## Changing the social security income assessment model

The Australian Government is making reporting easier and more accurate for income support recipients. Under the new measure, the Government is adapting the way income support recipients report employment income to when income is received, rather than earned.

To make this possible the Australian Government will leverage the collection of data under Single Touch Payroll by the Australian Taxation Office – a streamlined way employers report taxation and superannuation information – and share it with relevant Commonwealth agencies. This will reflect the way employers pay their employees.

The measure will come into effect on 1 July 2020.

### Key facts

- The Australian Government is making changes to the way it assesses employment income, which will make reporting easier and more accurate for income support recipients.
- This means people will report the gross income from their employer, making their income support payments more accurate and a debt less likely to occur.
- Changes to the income assessment model will deliver savings the Australian Government of \$2.1 billion over five years.
- These changes are an important step in the modernisation of Australia's social security system. It will reduce red tape and make it easier for people to access services and payments - ensuring Australia's welfare system remains sustainable.

## More information

For more information about this measure and other Department of Social Services' Budget measures, visit the [Department of Social Services website \(dss.gov.au\)](https://www.dss.gov.au).

For information about the 2019 Budget, visit the [Australian Government budget website \(budget.gov.au\)](https://www.budget.gov.au).