

Health, education and social investment

Fact sheet

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Budget 2023 invests in the wellbeing of all Territorians through investments in health, education, housing and support for the most vulnerable.



Investing in health services

Budget 2023 commits \$2 billion to health services across the Territory to ensure Territorians are able to access care and treatment if and when they need it, including:

- \$100 million additional over three years to support hospitals
- \$37.3 million to upgrade the central sterilisation service departments at the Alice Springs, Katherine, Gove and Royal Darwin hospitals
- \$30 million for works at Alice Springs Hospital including the ambulatory care centre and hybrid operating theatre
- \$26.5 million for regional and remote hospitals and health clinics including fire remediation works at Gove District Hospital, a new mobile oral health dental unit for Central Australia and construction of staff accommodation at the Tennant Creek Hospital
- \$25 million for a 32-bed modular multipurpose ward at the Royal Darwin Hospital (RDH) to enable rapid deployment of additional beds
- \$23.7 million to upgrade the forensic mortuary, pathology and bereavement facility at RDH
- \$20 million for a new health centre and morgue facility in Gunbalanya fitted with consulting rooms, emergency bays and renal facilities
- \$15.5 million to continue assessment, withdrawal and specialised alcohol treatment services to assist people with alcohol misuse issues and dependence as part of the Banned Drinker Register
- \$9 million to replace ageing medical equipment over three years and improve patient outcomes, including CT scanners, single-photo emission computer tomography (SPECT) scanners, diagnostic ultrasound equipment, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) equipment, theatre lights and acute patient monitors
- \$1 million to undertake planning for future health service capacity and develop a plan for future use of Territory hospitals and other major health facilities to deliver contemporary health care for Territorians.

Education and training

Budget 2023 invests \$1.37 billion in education across the Territory to support the future of Territorians, including:

- \$557 million for government schools resourcing

- \$35.3 million to continue to improve Aboriginal student outcomes through the delivery of programs under the Indigenous Education Strategy. These include Families as First Teachers, student engagement programs and activities, secondary years and post school pathways, and remote aboriginal teacher education
- \$9.7 million to create a science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) centre and general learning areas at Katherine High School. The STEAM centre will provide an innovative and engaging learning environment to prepare students for jobs of the future
- \$9.6 million for new preschool facilities at Parap Primary School
- \$4.8 million to implement the preschool reform agreement to facilitate children's early learning and development and transition to school. It will maintain universal access to affordable, quality preschool programs for all children, improve participation in preschool programs and maximise the benefit of the preschool year by improving outcomes for children
- \$4 million to introduce new and improved digital connectivity technologies for Territory schools, with a focus on remote and regional schools
- \$2.8 million to support Territory educators and students with a rolling program of local area network infrastructure upgrades to 12 schools per year
- \$2.8 million to upgrade homeland learning centres
- \$1.2 million to deliver Vocational Education and Training in Schools (VETiS) to grow the Territory workforce. The program will support 350 more secondary school students to enrol in 23 additional courses
- Support for apprentices and trainees through the workwear and workgear bonus. Payments of either \$300 or \$1,000 are available to eligible first-year full-time, part-time or school-based apprentices or trainees to subsidise workwear and equipment costs.
- \$14 million as part of the redevelopment of the old Shiers Street public housing complex
- \$11.3 million for upgraded and new remote service delivery hubs to improve the coordination and delivery of government services in remote areas
- \$10.5 million to construct a new purpose-built youth hub facility at the former Casuarina fire station site and a new men's shed in Darwin, including remediation work at the site prior to constructing the new youth hub
- \$9.7 million to progress delivery of the Tennant Creek Visitor Park project as part of the Barkly Regional Deal to provide safe, secure and alcohol free accommodation for visitors to Tennant Creek from remote communities and outstations.

Community engagement

Budget 2023 provides \$2.97 million to install oval lights at two remote community sporting grounds.

The investment will provide the Gunbalanya and Kalkarindji communities with a large multipurpose outdoor space that can be used for a variety of activities at night, allowing community members to stay active and engaged in sports and their communities.

Regional and remote development

Budget 2023 invests in priority initiatives to support Aboriginal people across the Territory to improve liveability and have their voices heard, including:

- \$9 million over three years for the Community Places for People grant program for regional and shire councils
- \$4.1 million over four years to support the continued delivery of the Treaty process including establishing First Nations Forums and truth-telling, and working in conjunction with stakeholders to develop local, regional and Territory Voices to Parliament
- \$3 million over three years to progress the Groote Archipelago Local Decision Making Agreement
- \$1.5 million over three years to support key projects in the Blue Mud Bay homelands through the Djalkiripuyngu Local Decision Making Agreement
- \$3 million over three years to support implementation of the *Burial and Cremation Act 2022*, including a Regional and Remote Burial Areas grant program.

Supporting vulnerable Territorians

Budget 2023 invests in social infrastructure across the Territory to ensure vulnerable Territorians are supported, including:

- \$31 million additional support for out of home care including for young people with high needs

Photograph courtesy of the Department of Health

Delivering for all Territorians.

