

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Health

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

Inquiry into the Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

28 January 2021

PDR Number: IQ21-000029

Australian Government's total budget for the COVID-19 vaccination program

Written

Hansard Page number: N/A

Senator: Katy Gallagher

Question:

What is the Australian Government's total budget for the COVID-19 vaccination program? Please provide a breakdown of the key spending areas (i.e. purchasing vaccines, storage & logistics, delivery to states etc.)

Answer

Investment in COVID-19 Health Response and Vaccination (As at 15 April 2021)			
Funding Component	Total (\$m)	Total Expenditure As at 31 Mar 21 (\$m)	Details
Funding Mechanisms	1,062.9	*	- Payments for each vaccination dose delivered by the States; - Funding under the Medicare Benefit Schedule Practice Incentive Payments and related programs for COVID-19 vaccination of the Australian population; and - Primary Care Support through GP led Respiratory Clinics, Primary Health Networks, Indigenous Health and CALD organisations.
Surge Workforce and Training	251.3	2.7	Commonwealth contracted surge workforce to support the rollout of the COVID-19 Vaccination Program, includes training through Aust College of Nursing.
Vaccine Distribution, Logistics and Additional Consumables	202.3	12.8	To engage partners to distribute COVID-19 vaccines to locations across Australia, includes the purchase of ultra-cold -80c freezers.
National Clinical Evidence Taskforce (Monash University)	1.7	0.8	Extending departmental funding for the National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce to continue to deliver nationally up-to-date evidence-based clinical guidelines to support clinicians with caring of people with COVID-19.
Initial Support for COVID-19 Vaccine Treatment Procurement and Implementation	7.8	*	Funding to establish and support the COVID-19 Vaccine Taskforce Division.
Peripherals to enable COVID-19 vaccine administration	24.7	5.1	To purchase vaccine related consumables.
Phase 1 Data works	47.8	*	Updates to digital health systems to support Phase One of the national roll-out of the COVID-19 Vaccination Program.
End-to-End Digital Solution	232.2	*	Updates to digital health systems to support the COVID-19 Vaccination Program.
Program Delivery Support	37.9	*	Additional resources for the Department of Health through the COVID-19 Vaccine Taskforce to lead and implement Australia's Vaccine Rollout Strategy.
COVID-19 Vaccine Advance Purchase Agreements	3,865.9	^	
Initial investment to the Gavi COVAX Facility (up to 25.6 million doses)	123.2	127.1	Agreement with Gavi to secure access of up to 25,651,000 doses from the COVAX Facility under the self-financing optional purchase model.
National Communications Campaign	39.6	5.5	To develop and rollout COVID-19 vaccine communications to support the COVID-19 Vaccination Program.
Research Investment & Vaccine Development	371.7	58.1	Includes research into diagnostics, vaccine development, antiviral development, clinical trials, digital health research infrastructure and research into the human immune response to COVID-19 infection.
COVID-19 Vaccines for the Pacific and South East Asia	523.2	-	To support access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines for the Pacific and Southeast Asia.
Pledge to Gavi	300.0	-	Pledge to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, to pool global resources to accelerate the development and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines.
Investment to secure COVID-19 vaccines for developing countries	80.0	-	Investment to secure COVID-19 vaccines for developing countries through the Advance Market Commitment component of Gavi Facility.
Total	7,172.2	212.2	

Notes:

* Not currently available.

^ Commercial-in-Confidence.

1) This table includes Departmental and Administered funding.

2) Total Commitment figures contained in the above table reconcile to our Financial systems as at 15 April 2021.

3) Total Expenditure figures contained in the above table reconcile to our Financial systems as at 31 March 2021.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Health

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

Inquiry into Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Written Question on Notice, 28 January 2021

PDR Number: IQ21-000034

Government's target for the proportion of the adult population to have received both doses by the end of October 2021

Written

Senator: Katy Gallagher

Question:

What is the government's target for the proportion of the adult population to have received both doses by the end of October 2021?

- a. What is the average daily rate of vaccination from the 1st of March to the 31st October to achieve this?
- b. What is the estimated proportion of the population to have access to vaccination by June 30th on current delivery and administration schedules?

Answer:

The Government's goal is to ensure every Australian is vaccinated as early as possible.

On 8 April the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) recommended that the Pfizer vaccine is preferred over the AstraZeneca vaccine in adults aged under 50 years.

This recommendation is based on the increasing risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19 in older adults (and hence a higher benefit from vaccination) and a potentially increased risk of thrombosis with thrombocytopenia following AstraZeneca vaccine in those under 50 years.

Following the recommendation of 8 April 2021 from the ATAGI, the PM announced that the COVID Vaccination Program would undergo recalibration to ensure the roll out of COVID-19 vaccines in Australia is completed as safely, quickly and efficiently as possible.