

Diabetes Alliance Pre- Budget Submission 2025 - 2026

The Australian Diabetes Alliance

The Australian Diabetes Alliance comprises the country's major diabetes organisations, in collective advocacy for the sector: Diabetes Australia, the Australian Diabetes Educators Association, the Australian Diabetes Society, JDRF Australia, the Australasian Diabetes in Pregnancy Society, and the Australian and New Zealand Society for Paediatric Endocrinology and Diabetes.

The diabetes epidemic

Between 2013 to 2023, the total number of Australians known to be living with all types of diabetes increased by 32%. With an estimated 2 million people now living with all types of diagnosed and undiagnosed diabetes, the cost to the Australian health system is estimated at \$3.4 billion every year. In the midst of this epidemic, strong and urgent action is needed to protect the health of millions of Australians.

In response to strong evidence from the sector about the diabetes epidemic, the Federal Government convened a Parliamentary Inquiry into Diabetes in 2023. The Inquiry was undertaken by the Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport and chaired by Dr Mike Freelander MP, Member for Macarthur.

Budget priorities

The Diabetes Alliance calls on the Federal Government to fund the implementation of all recommendations from the report *The State of Diabetes Mellitus in Australia in 2024* which was tabled in Federal Parliament on 3 July 2024.

After receiving comprehensive submissions from key diabetes stakeholders, researchers and people living with diabetes, the Committee made 23 recommendations, 22 of which received bipartisan support in the final report. All 23 recommendations are supported by the diabetes community and should be implemented.

The Report shines a light on Australia's Diabetes epidemic, and the recommendations are a comprehensive package of measures which will make a real difference for people living with diabetes and bring about significant benefits for Australia's health system.

There are four key areas of recommendations, which we believe should be urgently prioritised by the Federal Government because of their impact and direct influence on people living with diabetes in Australia and the Australian health system and economy. These are:

1. **Technology:** A key issue which was raised throughout the Parliamentary Inquiry was access to affordable technology for people living with diabetes, in particular access to continuous glucose monitors and insulin pumps. Research has shown that these devices are effective at reducing diabetes complications and hospital admissions, potentially saving the health system billions of dollars. **Recommendations 15, 16 and 17** relate to access to technology for people living with Diabetes. Our position statement on [Equitable Access to Diabetes Technology](#) provides guidance for Government about how action could be taken to expand access to continuous glucose monitors for

people living with type 2 and other forms of diabetes who require intensive insulin therapy and insulin pumps for people living with type 1 diabetes through a staged approach.

2. **Research:** Research is the key to finding a cure for diabetes, as well as learning about better ways for people to manage their chronic health condition, and reduce complications. Economic analysis shows medical research delivers a return of almost \$4 for every dollar invested. We anticipate that the return on investment for diabetes research is even higher. This return is generated through better treatments that reduce the impact of serious complications and prevent or reduce hospital admissions and primary healthcare visits. Even though on average, 300 Australians are diagnosed with diabetes every day, National Health and Medical Research Council funding for diabetes research has declined by more than 35% over the last decade. The Alliance gratefully acknowledges the Federal Government's commitment of \$50.1m over five years for JDRC Australia's Type 1 Diabetes Clinical Research Network. This is a highly successful and impactful research network and we call on the government to further invest in research for all types of diabetes. **Recommendation 21** of the Parliamentary Inquiry's Report supports further action being taken by the government to coordinate research priorities with an emphasis on equitable access and prevention. We support that coordination, as well as an increase in overall funding for diabetes research.
3. **Workforce:** A skilled and well supported health workforce is the foundation for delivering high quality diabetes care to people at all stages of their diabetes journey. The funding of **Recommendation 12** of the Report which focuses on improving access to healthcare providers will reduce progression from pre-diabetes to diabetes, reduce and avoid complications and hospitalization, and enhance long term health outcomes for people living with diabetes. Sustainable funding for a diabetes workforce which includes Credentialed Diabetes Educators and other allied health professionals is essential to the implementation of reform in diabetes care. Investing in workforce capacity, training and retention is essential to meet growing demand and delivering best-practice diabetes management across all healthcare settings.
4. **Prevention:** Prevention is key to addressing the alarming and growing rates of type 1 and type 2 diabetes in Australia. The need for investment in prevention measures has been identified as a priority by both the Parliamentary Inquiry and also the Australian National Diabetes Strategy 2021 – 2030. The implementation of Inquiry **recommendations 3, 4, 5 and 6** (related to food, sugary drinks and advertising), **recommendations 7,8 and 9** (related to screening, best practice frameworks and public health campaigns) should be prioritised by the government to stem the rising tide of diabetes.

The Diabetes Alliance calls on the Government to fund the implementation of the recommendations of the Parliamentary Inquiry. Diabetes has become one of the largest and most complex health challenges Australia has ever faced. Bold, innovative investments are needed to help Australia stem the tide of this epidemic to improve lives and deliver substantial cost savings for the health system.