



Supporting frontline health services

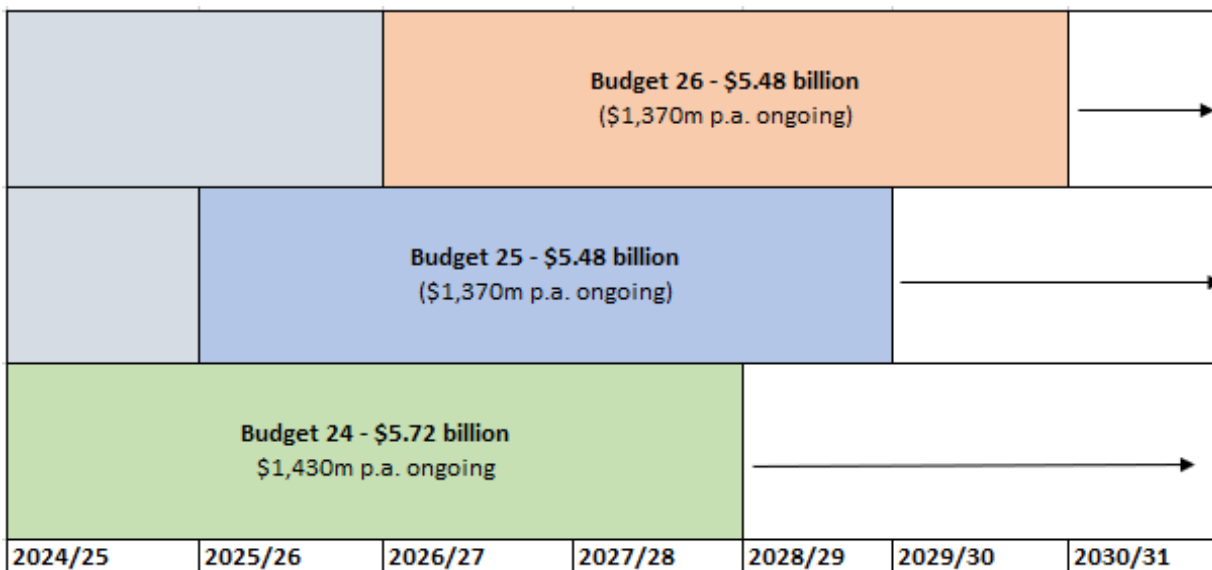
OVERALL BUDGET PACKAGE: This funding provides Health New Zealand with \$16.68 billion over three Budgets.

Funding for Health New Zealand will increase significantly each Budget cycle, starting with an uplift of \$5.72 billion over four years, a further \$5.48 billion over four years on top of that in Budget 2025, and a further \$5.48 billion over four years added again in Budget 2026.

The cumulative impact of this approach is a \$16.68 billion investment in health over the next three Budgets.

Multi-year funding - cumulative uplift

The annual increase in funding from each Budget is carried forward into the baseline, meaning that the annual increases across the three Budgets are cumulative.



Multi-year funding will allow Health New Zealand to know what amount of funding it has over three Budgets to better plan and deliver frontline health services including Emergency Departments (ED), primary care, aged care, public health services, and assist with the retention of the health workforce.

Expected benefits:

- This investment will help ensure New Zealanders have timely access to quality healthcare.

- The funding will provide more certainty to the health system, so it can improve the frontline services that New Zealanders need.

This funding is additional to the \$1.774 billion increase to the Combined Pharmaceutical Budget over four years. This separate funding gives Pharmac certainty to continue the level of access to medicines that New Zealand currently has.

Extension of free breast screening

OVERALL BUDGET PACKAGE: Budget 2024 provides \$24 million over four years in operating funding and \$7.19 million in capital funding over 10 years to extend the BreastScreen Aotearoa programme to include free mammograms for women up to the age of 74. The current screening age for the programme is women aged 45-69.

This investment will provide:

- An additional 40,000+ breast screens every year once fully implemented
- Additional workforce capacity
- Eight mammography units
- Six ultrasound units
- Four mobile units
- Six reading stations
- One picture archiving systems licence

Expected benefits:

- Breast cancer is the most common cancer among New Zealand women. Detecting more cancers early can result in better treatment outcomes and save lives.
- Expanding free screening to women aged up to 74 will mean about 120,000 additional women will be eligible for screening every two years.
- On average, women will be eligible for an additional two to three mammograms over their lifetimes as part of the free national breast screening programme.
- This means the average number of free mammograms New Zealand women will receive over their lifetimes will increase from 13 to about 16.
- This is expected to save an extra 65 lives per year once fully implemented.

HOW IS THIS BEING FUNDED?

This is new funding allocated through Budget 2024.

Emergency Department Security – Service Expansion

OVERALL BUDGET PACKAGE: \$30.848 million over four years to increase security in emergency departments at hospitals around New Zealand.

Vote	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28 & outyears	TOTAL
Vote Health	6.170	8.226	8.226	8.226	30.848
TOTAL funding	6.170	8.226	8.226	8.226	30.848

This investment will provide:

- An extra 44 full-time security staff at eight high-risk emergency departments, ensuring an additional security staff member is available 24/7. These high-risk EDs are Waitakere, North Shore, Auckland City, Middlemore, Waikato, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin hospitals.
- New staff will add to Health New Zealand’s existing 1,000-plus frontline security team.
- Security training and support staff to ensure most Health New Zealand districts have a dedicated resource to train and support security staff and clinical leads.
- Flexible regional funding for an extra 10 full-time staff members to provide surge support across the country, for example, following serious security incidents and during peak holiday periods.

Expected benefits:

- New Zealanders needing care and our critical health care workers will feel safer and be safer in our hospitals.
- Health New Zealand will be able to provide a consistent national model to security, using best practice across all hospitals.
- Extra security in emergency departments will flow on to other health services, making the health system safer for New Zealanders overall.

HOW IS THIS BEING FUNDED?

This is new funding being allocated through Budget 2024.

Reinvesting savings into frontline health

OVERALL BUDGET PACKAGE: This initiative reintroduces the \$5 prescription co-payment charge for people 14 years and over. This will give the health system estimated net savings of \$116.143 million over five years, which will be reinvested into frontline services.

Prescriptions continue to be free for Community Services Card holders and their dependents, people aged under 14 and people who are 65 and over.

Initiative	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28 & outyears	TOTAL
Savings	-	(70.979)	(64.586)	(66.201)	(67.856)	(269.622)
Funding for additional medicines	23.780	31.234	32.015	32.815	33.635	153.479
TOTAL funding/(savings)	23.780	(39.745)	(32.571)	(33.386)	(34.221)	(116.143)

This initiative:

- Reinstates the \$5 prescription co-payment.
- Note, the **Prescription Subsidy Card** limits the total number of co-payments an individual or family will pay to 20 per year (the pharmacy year is 1 February to 31 January). After that, their prescriptions will be free.
- Prescriptions continue to be free for:
 - Community Services Card holders and their dependents
 - those under 14 years old, and
 - those who are 65 years and over.

Expected benefits:

- This will give the health system an estimated net savings of \$116.143 million over five years.
- Savings from this initiative are reinvested in the health system, for example, to fund medicines.
- The initiative provides financial support to people who need it most, to help them access the funded medicines they need to get well and stay well. This helps reduce pressure on the health system as a whole.
- By targeting our resources at those who are most in need, we support a financially sustainable health system.