



...good health and wellbeing in rural and remote Australia.

What the Government promised this election!

1. Improve Indigenous Health

NRHA POLICY	
<p>Endorse the Uluru Statement from the Heart and the Makarrata, ie establish a First Nations Voice in the Australian Constitution and establish a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about our history</p>	<p>Is committed to recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians in the Constitution, which would acknowledge a shared history and value our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage.</p> <p>The Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition’s final report notes further work is required to clarify what a voice is and how it could best suit the needs and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. No commitment on Makarrata.</p>
<p>Fund an additional 3000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners. (\$180 million over 4 years; \$180 million per year ongoing)</p>	<p>No specific allocation.</p> <p>\$4.1 billion over four years via Indigenous Australians Health Program to improve access to health care + \$51 million for new initiatives including increasing the number of Indigenous Australians working in health.</p>
<p>Increase base funding of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations</p>	<p>\$8 million for National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services to deliver culturally appropriate health care in very remote areas. No increase.</p>
<p>Eliminate Rheumatic Heart Disease. Get serious about meeting targets set under the END RHD program. (\$170 million over 4 years.)</p>	<p>\$35 million to accelerate development of a vaccine to prevent Rheumatic Heart Disease.</p>

2. Improve access to healthcare, especially by funding more allied health professionals into rural Australia

NRHA POLICY	
<p>Fund an additional 3000 Allied Health Professionals (\$300 million over 4 years)</p>	<p>No real policy on boosting allied health other than expanding eligibility criteria under Workforce Incentive Program (not rurally focused) which rebrands previous practice nurse incentive program.</p> <p>\$19.7 million for Royal far West to expand Telecare services including allied health services such as speech therapy, occupational therapy and psychology.</p>
<p>Fund 20 rural and remote demonstration sites across the nation, comprising clusters of rural communities, where a workforce is matched with the healthcare needs of each, then evaluate these for improvements in service access and health outcomes over a sustained period. These demonstration sites then inform the development of service models best suited to meeting the needs of local communities (\$50 million over 4 years)</p>	<p>No specific promise.</p>
<p>Establish a community grants program to ensure people in rural and remote areas have reliable continuous access to digital infrastructure and technologies capable of supporting telehealth, tele-medicine, tele-rehabilitation and tele-monitoring (\$400 million over 4 years)</p>	<p>No specific promise for community grants program.</p> <p>\$160 million for 2 more rounds of the Mobile Black Spot Program.</p> <p>\$60 million for a Regional Connectivity Program.</p> <p>Funding for trials of alternative voice services to replace ageing high capacity radio concentrator network in remote areas.</p>

Provide Medicare rebates to GPs and other health professionals for telehealth consults to outer regional, remote and very remote areas (\$420 million over 4 years and \$180 million/year thereafter)

\$33.5 million to extend telehealth services provided by GPs to remote and very remote patients.

Telehealth access for psychological services for people living in Northern and Western Queensland impacted by the recent floods, those affected by fires in Tasmania and drought affected farmers in the Gippsland region will receive access to additional mental health support including through telehealth with an investment of \$26.9 million. Amount specifically for telehealth access unknown.

3. Expand the health research capacity of rural Australia

NRHA POLICY

Create a new and specifically funded rural health focus in the Medical Research Future Fund, (a third Mission) specifically for Rural Health, and allocate 28 % of the fund to this (\$360m)

\$100 million for rural, regional and remote clinical trials across the country from the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) National Critical Infrastructure initiative over 5 years from 2020-21.

\$18 million for a new Institute for Regional, Rural and Remote Health and Medical Research in Orange NSW to support the needs of rural communities throughout Australia.

\$10 million for the Lowitja Institute for research to improve the health outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

4. Create a new National Rural Health Strategy

NRHA POLICY

Create a new National Rural Health Strategy (\$2m) that includes targets for improving access to health services, health promotion and for improving social determinants of health for rural people

No new strategy planned. Already has *Stronger Rural Health Strategy* – 2018 Budget (\$550m).