

Federal Budget Analysis





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About the Super Members Council (SMC)

We are strong voice advocating for more than 11 million Australians who have over \$1.5 trillion in retirement savings managed by profit-to-member superannuation funds. We will protect and advance their interests throughout their lives, advocating on their behalf to ensure superannuation policy is stable, effective, and equitable. We produce rigorous research and analysis and work with Parliamentarians and policy makers across the full breadth of Parliament.

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Political and economic context

This Budget lays out the Government's policy agenda for the final year of its first term, setting the stage for a re-election campaign and an election in or before May next year.

In a time of high inflation and global uncertainty, the Prime Minister and Treasurer hope to showcase the Government as strong economic managers in tough times, while offering cost-of-living relief to millions of Australians through tax cuts, power bill relief, and measures to reduce inflation.

The Treasurer has indicated an early Budget in March next year before the next election.

Higher than expected tax revenue has contributed to a second consecutive budget surplus, bolstering the Treasurer's messaging on good economic management, and improving on the mid-year forecast. However, the forward estimates show larger deficits for the years ahead - even larger than was predicted six months ago.

Centrepiece cost-of-living relief measures include the changes to the Stage 3 tax cuts, providing greater tax relief to those on low and middle incomes. Additional relief is being provided to those with student debt with changes to the method of calculating interest on HELP loans.

An extension to the freeze on the deeming rate used to calculate pension and other income support payments for another 12 months, will mean pensioners with other income will not see a reduction in their payments.

The Future Made in Australia agenda includes packages providing grants, loans and investment in Australian advanced manufacturing and green technology, indicating a renewed focus on Australian industry and manufacturing jobs.

Of course, the announcement made in March that the Government will pay super on paid parental leave was included in the Budget, with \$1.1 billion committed to funding the scheme over the forward estimates.

Ultimately, this Budget will be presented as addressing the widespread cost-of-living concerns in a responsible and forward-looking way. Predictions that inflation levels could return to target levels by Christmas are fuelling optimism that pressures on households are subsiding, but a degree of uncertainty remains.

SMC remains committed to advocating for measures that will improve the equity, sustainability and stability of our world class super system, including extending the Super Guarantee to under 18s and reducing red tape for retirees.

Unemployment remains low at 3.8%, but the labour market is showing signs of softening. Treasury forecasts that unemployment will increase but remain lower than pre-Covid levels over the coming years. High nominal wage growth combined with moderating inflation has seen real wages growth make a comeback, and now looks like it will be sustained.

These strong economic indicators will continue to provide a stable economic environment for super investment.

Economic outlook

The Australian economy is forecast to grow at a slower rate than expected just six months ago, showing it is not immune from a more muted global growth outlook.

Global growth is expected to remain subdued over the next few years as the effects of high inflation, restrictive macroeconomic policies, geopolitical tensions, and challenges in the Chinese economy weigh on the outlook. Global growth is forecast to remain flat at around 3¼ per cent in 2024, 2025, and 2026.

In Australia, the budget forecasts real GDP to grow by 2 per cent in 2024-25, 2.25 per cent in 2025-26 and 2.5 per cent in 2026-27.

The uncertainty around the global and domestic outlook adds risk to the inflation outlook, which forecasts returning to the target band (between 2 and 3 per cent) by the end of the year. Inflation is then expected to remain at around 2.5 per cent in 2026/27 and 2027/28.

These are important numbers - inflation is the main game for good reason. Taming inflation is critical for relieving household cost pressures and also ensuring the real purchasing power of members savings aren't eroded.

Despite the increase in spending in this budget, it is targeted, and the budget is expected to directly reduce inflation by 0.5 per cent.

All eyes will now be trained on the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) to see if, after reviewing the budget, it readjusts its inflation forecasts more in line with Treasury. The RBA board next meets in June.

Spending on what the government has labelled unavoidable areas such as defence, the NDIS, Aged care and health will result in larger than expected deficits over the next four years - a cumulative \$113 billion, up from \$72 billion in MYEFO.

Policy decisions in this budget are forecast to reduce the underlying cash balance by \$24.4 billion over the forward estimates. Put simply, this budget spends \$24 billion more than it makes in the years ahead.

On jobs, the labour market has been resilient, with employment growing faster than many other advanced economies.

Current nominal wages growth of 4.2 percent is expected to moderate to 3.25 percent over the coming two years but will be ahead of CPI, delivering sustained real wage growth. Combined with the increase in the SG to 12 percent next year, this will support increased contributions into member accounts.

Real wages have risen for three consecutive quarters and returned to annual growth at the end of 2023, which is earlier than previously forecast. Real wages are expected to rise further and grow by ½ per cent through-the-year to the June quarter 2024.

Net debt forecasts over the next four years have worsened since MYEFO. Interest payments will peak at \$26 billion in 2027/28, and a cumulative \$92.4 billion over the next four years. Total interest payments are estimated to be 0.9 per cent of GDP in 2024-25 before rising to 1.3 per cent of GDP by 2034-35.

In summary, Australia is well-positioned with several strengths:

- **Moderating Inflation:** Inflation has fallen significantly from its peak in 2022 and is expected to return to the target range by the end of 2024.
- **Resilient Labor Market:** Unemployment remains low, participation is high, and employment growth is strong. Though expected to rise slightly, the unemployment rate should stay below pre-pandemic levels.
- **Wage Growth:** Nominal wage growth is picking up, leading to a return of annual real wage growth in late 2023. This trend is expected to continue.
- **Solid Business Investment:** Investment is forecast to grow steadily through 2025-26, potentially marking the longest sustained increase since the mining boom.

The government's budget reflects this outlook:

- **Surpluses:** Back-to-back surpluses are projected in 2023-24 and 2024-25, driven by higher tax receipts and spending restraint.
- **Cost-of-Living Measures:** The budget allocates resources to address cost-of-living pressures, with a slight deficit projected in 2024-25.
- **Improved Fiscal Position:** The government has identified budget improvements and lower debt levels compared to previous forecasts.

Table 1. Major economic parameters

Outcome	Forecasts					
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2028-29
Real GDP	3.1	1 ³ / ₄	2	2 ¹ / ₄	2 ¹ / ₂	2 ³ / ₄
Employment	3.5	2 ¹ / ₄	³ / ₄	1 ¹ / ₄	1 ³ / ₄	1 ³ / ₄
Unemployment rate	3.6	4	4 ¹ / ₂	4 ¹ / ₂	4 ¹ / ₂	4 ¹ / ₄
Consumer price index	6	3 ¹ / ₂	2 ³ / ₄	2 ³ / ₄	2 ¹ / ₂	2 ¹ / ₂
Wage price index	3.7	4	3 ¹ / ₄	3 ¹ / ₄	3 ¹ / ₂	3 ¹ / ₂
Nominal GDP	9.9	4 ³ / ₄	2 ³ / ₄	4	5 ¹ / ₄	5 ¹ / ₄

Source: Budget papers 2024-25

Superannuation

Super on Government-funded Paid Parental Leave

Superannuation will be paid on Government-funded Paid Parental Leave (PPL) for parents of babies born or adopted on or after 1 July 2025.

- Eligible parents will receive an additional payment based on the Superannuation Guarantee (12 per cent of their PPL payments), as a contribution to their superannuation fund.
- This will reduce the impact of career breaks to care for young children on superannuation balances, and support parents to achieve a more dignified retirement.
- This measure will help normalise parental leave as a workplace entitlement, like annual and sick leave, and reduce the impact of parental leave on retirement incomes.
- It will benefit approximately 180,000 families.
- Estimated cost is \$1.1 billion.
- The Government is providing:
 - » \$10.0 million over two years from 2024-25 to provide additional support for small business employers in administering PPL.
 - » \$1.4 million over two years from 2023-24 to update communication products and documents for potential PPL recipients.
 - » This builds on the Government's \$1.2 billion investment from 2022-23 to 2026-27 to enhance the PPL scheme, which will increase by two weeks each year to reach a total of 26 weeks by 1 July 2026.

Securing Australian's Superannuation - Payday Super

This initiative was announced in the 2023-24 Budget and included payday super and a redesigned compliance framework.

- Employers will be required to pay their employees superannuation guarantee entitlements on the same day they pay salary and wages.
- A consultation process has been undertaken with industry and stakeholders about the implementation of these measures.
- This Budget reiterates the Government's support for this initiative.
- While the Budget contains no further details of arrangements or funding for these reforms, a Productivity, Education and Training Fund will provide \$60.0 million to employer and employee representatives over four years from 2024-25, to engage with their members and government on the implementation of significant reforms that impact businesses, workers, and the community, including the transition to a net zero economy, Securing Australians' Superannuation reforms and recent workplace relations changes.

Unpaid superannuation entitlements

- The Fair Entitlements Guarantee Recovery Program to pursue unpaid superannuation entitlements owed by employers in liquidation or bankruptcy will be recalibrated from 1 July 2024.
- Estimated increase in tax receipts of \$63.1 million over four years from 2024-25 and additional \$44.4 million over four years from 2024-25 expected to be paid to superannuation funds.

SuperStream Gateway Network Governance Body

- \$2.7 million provided over four years from 2024-25 (and \$0.7 million per year ongoing) to continue to support the SuperStream Gateway Network Governance Body, to manage the integrity of the Superannuation Transaction Network,

Increase in employees at ASIC, APRA and ATO

- ASIC staff numbers will be increased in 2024-25 from 1,709 to 1,948.
- APRA staff numbers will be increased in 2024-25 from 857 to 893.
- ATO staff numbers will be increased in 2024-25 from 19,579 to 21,350

APRA superannuation performance measures

- Performance reporting requirements for government agencies are included in the Budget Portfolio Budget Statements as part of the Commonwealth performance framework.
- These performance measures are to be read with broader information provided in an entity’s corporate plans and annual performance statements.
- APRA’s key performance metric for 2024-25 is to reduce the number of:
 - » superannuation members exposed to unsustainable funds
 - » trustees with sub-standard governance practices
 - » superannuation members in high-fee, poor-performing MySuper offerings.

ATO superannuation performance measures

- The Budget provides ATO performance targets for LISTO, co-contributions, Superannuation Guarantee Scheme compliance, and the SG gap.
- The target for “superannuation guarantee charge raised and distributed within 12 months” continues to be under development.

Program 1.11 - Low Income Superannuation Tax Offset		
<p>The Low Income Superannuation Tax Offset (LISTO) is aimed to address some of the inequity in the superannuation system, where low income earners with a marginal rate of tax less than 15 per cent, pay a higher rate of tax on superannuation contributions than if they had received the money as salary and wages. The LISTO replaces the low income superannuation contribution (LISC) policy from 1 July 2017. LISC will continue to be payable for concessional contributions made up to and including the 2016 17 year, however, determinations will cease at 1 July 2019. The Treasury has policy responsibility for the program, while the ATO administers the program and provides information and support to individuals and superannuation funds through advice and education services.</p>		
Year	Performance measures	Expected/planned performance outcomes
Current year 2023-24	Proportion of original contributions paid within 60 days	Target: 97% Forecast: On track
Budget year 2024-25		Target 2024-25: 97%
Forward estimates 2025-28		Target 2025-28: As per 2024-25

Program 1.13 - Superannuation Co contribution Scheme		
<p>The Superannuation Co contribution Scheme is to help low and middle income earners save for their retirement. Eligible individuals who make personal superannuation contributions to a complying superannuation fund or retirement savings account receive a co contribution from the Government up to certain limits. The Treasury has policy responsibility for the program, while the ATO administers the program and provides information and support to individuals and superannuation funds through marketing and education services.</p>		
Year	Performance measures	Expected/planned performance outcomes
Current year 2023-24	Proportion of original co-contributions paid within 60 days	Target: 97% Forecast: On track
Budget year 2024-25		Target 2024-25: 97%
Forward estimates 2025-28		Target 2025-28: As per 2024-25

Program 1.14 - Superannuation Guarantee Scheme

Under the *Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992*, most employers must pay superannuation contributions into a complying superannuation fund or retirement savings account. Non-compliance with the *Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992* by employers means that eligible employees will not receive their entitlements to, and benefits of, superannuation in their retirement.

Year	Performance measures	Expected/planned performance outcomes
<p>Current year 2023-24</p> <p>Budget year 2024-25</p> <p>Forward estimates 2025-28</p>	<p>Superannuation guarantee gap as a proportion of superannuation guarantee contributions</p>	<p>Target: Reduce the gap to a level as low as practicable given the nature and complexity of the law and the resources available. Forecast: Information not yet available. Actual performance will be reported in the ATO Annual Report</p> <p>Target 2024-25: Reduce the gap to a level as low as practicable given the nature and complexity of the law and the resources available.</p> <p>Target 2025-28: As per 2024-25</p>
<p>Current year 2023-24</p> <p>Budget year 2024-25</p> <p>Forward estimates 2025-28</p>	<p>Value of superannuation guarantee charge: raised (including penalties and interest) collected</p>	<p>Target: Raised: \$1,017 million Collected: \$594 million Forecast: Information not yet available. Actual performance will be reported in the ATO Annual Report</p> <p>Target 2024-25: Raised: \$1,099 million Collected: \$642 million</p> <p>Target 2025-26: Raised: \$1,184 million Collected: \$692 million</p> <p>Target 2026-28: Raised: As per 2025-26 Collected: As per 2025-26</p>
<p>Current year 2023-24</p> <p>Budget year 2024-25</p> <p>Forward estimates 2025-28</p>	<p>Value of superannuation guarantee entitlements distributed to individuals or superannuation funds</p> <p>Value of superannuation guarantee charge entitlements distributed to individuals or superannuation funds</p>	<p>Target: \$536 million Forecast: Information not yet available. Actual performance will be reported in the ATO Annual Report</p> <p>Target 2024-25: \$578 million</p> <p>Target 2025-26: \$622 million Target 2026-28: As per 2025-26</p>

Year	Performance measures	Expected/planned performance outcomes
Current year 2023-24 Budget year 2024-25 Forward estimates 2025-28	Value of superannuation guarantee debt on hand and the amount of superannuation guarantee debt irrecoverable at law or uneconomical to pursue <u>Value of superannuation guarantee charge debt on hand and the amount of superannuation guarantee charge debt irrecoverable at law or uneconomical to pursue</u> (Note: Change of measure name for 2024-25)	Target: Debt on hand: \$3,700 million Irrecoverable at law or uneconomical to pursue: \$177 million Forecast: Information not yet available. Actual performance will be reported in the ATO Annual Report Target 2024-25: Debt on hand: \$4,000 million Irrecoverable at law or uneconomical to pursue: \$183 million Target 2025-26: Debt on hand: \$4,300 million Irrecoverable at law or uneconomical to pursue: \$189 million Target 2026-28: Debt on hand: As per 2025-26 Irrecoverable at law or uneconomical to pursue: As per 2025-26
Current year 2023-24 Budget year 2024-25 Forward estimates 2025-28	Superannuation guarantee charge raised and distributed within 12 months	Target: Under development Forecast: Information not yet available. Actual performance will be reported in the ATO Annual Report Target 2024-25: Under development Target 2025-28: As per 2024-25
Current year 2023-24 Budget year 2024-25 Forward estimates 2025-28	Superannuation guarantee distributed as a proportion of superannuation guarantee raised <u>Superannuation guarantee charge distributed as a proportion of superannuation guarantee charge raised</u>	Target: Under development Forecast: Information not yet available. Actual performance will be reported in the ATO Annual Report Target 2024-25: Under development Target 2025-28: As per 2024-25

Program 1.15 - Interest on unclaimed superannuation accounts paid

Under the Superannuation (Unclaimed Money and Lost Members) Act 1999, superannuation funds must identify certain types of lost and former temporary resident accounts as unclaimed superannuation money and transfer amounts to the ATO every six months. Since 1 July 2013, any unclaimed superannuation money payments from the ATO to either individuals or active fund accounts includes interest, at a rate equivalent to the consumer price index, to preserve the value of these accounts. While the Treasury has policy responsibility, the ATO administers the program.

Year	Performance measures	Expected/planned performance outcomes
Current year 2023-24 Budget year 2024-25 Forward estimates 2025-28	Proportion of unclaimed superannuation accounts where interest is paid compared to total accounts transferred	Target: 100% Forecast: Information not yet available. Actual performance will be reported in the ATO Annual Report Target 2024-25: N/A - measure ceases in 2023-24 Target 2025-28: As per 2024-25
Current year 2023-24 Budget year 2024-25 Forward estimates 2025-28	<u>Value of interest payments processed (unclaimed superannuation money USM)</u>	Target: N/A - new measure in 2024-25 Forecast: N/A - new measure in 2024-25 Target 2024-25: Not reasonably practicable Target 2025-28: As per 2024-25

ASIC superannuation performance measures

- The Portfolio Budget Statements contain no performance measures for ASIC but provide links to the ASIC Corporate Plan and performance statement in ASIC’s annual report.

Promoting Sustainable Finance Markets

- Building on the 2023-24 Budget measure, the Government will provide \$17.3 million over four years from 2024-25 (and \$3.1 million per year ongoing) to promote the development of sustainable finance markets in Australia. Funding includes:
 - » \$10.0 million over four years from 2024-25 (and \$1.9 million per year ongoing) for additional resourcing for ASIC to investigate and take enforcement action against market participants engaging in greenwashing and related financial misconduct.
 - » \$5.3 million over four years from 2024-25 (and \$1.2 million per year ongoing) for the Treasury, ASIC and the APRA to deliver the sustainable finance framework, including issuing green bonds, improving data and engaging in the development of international regulatory regimes related to sustainable finance
 - » \$1.6 million over two years from 2024-25 for ASIC and the Treasury to consult on the design of a labelling regime to regulate the use of sustainability labels on retail investment products
 - » \$0.5 million in 2024-25 to continue the development of Australia’s sustainable finance taxonomy, including expanding the taxonomy to cover the agricultural sector.
- The cost of this measure will be partially met from cost-recovery through ASIC and APRA industry levies.

Housing

Help to build, rent and buy

The Government announced several measures to address housing supply and affordability. This includes:

- an additional \$1 billion to states and territories for infrastructure projects in areas suitable for housing development. This includes improvements to water, power, roads, and shared facilities that are currently hindering construction. This responds to requests from states for earlier funding to meet national housing targets.
- additional funding to states and territories of \$423.1 million over five years for social housing and homelessness services, on top of the existing \$9.3 billion commitment. This includes doubling the dedicated funding for homelessness services, requiring states to match the increase.
- increasing student accommodation options, by introducing regulations requiring public universities to invest in purpose-built student housing. Details and implementation will be discussed before the regulations take effect.
- encouraging investment in existing Build to Rent developments by allowing foreign investors to purchase them. Additionally, they will reduce application fees for such investments, following a similar policy introduced for new Build to Rent projects.

More Social and Affordable Housing

Proposed increase in funding for social and affordable housing through the Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF).

A minimum of \$500 million will be distributed annually from the HAFF starting in 2024-25. These funds will prioritise social housing needs, including support for women and children escaping domestic violence and older women at risk of homelessness.

To further support the construction of new social and affordable dwellings, the government will provide up to \$1.9 billion in additional concessional loans to community housing providers and charities.

The government will also expand its Affordable Housing Bond Aggregator program, allowing them to provide more low-cost financing to these same organisations.

Finally, \$1 billion from the National Housing Infrastructure Facility will be directed towards building crisis and transitional housing options specifically for women and children fleeing domestic violence and homeless youth.

Additional training places for construction

Investment of \$88.8 million to expand training opportunities in construction related fields. This initiative aims to address potential workforce shortages in the construction and housing sector.

The funding will create 20,000 new free vocational training places (TAFE and VET) in construction related courses. There will also be increased access to pre-apprenticeship programs.

This adds to the government's existing commitment of delivering more than 355,000 free TAFE places in 2023 and 300,000 places between 2024-2026 in areas where there is a skills need.

An additional \$1.8 million will be allocated to streamline skills assessments for around 1,900 migrants from similar countries aiming to work in Australian construction.

Social security

Deeming rates frozen

- 12-month extension to 30 June 2025 of the current freeze in deeming rates, which will assist retirees.
- This will assist part pensioners with bank deposits, investments and also super pension income streams, which are captured under the deeming rules. The measures will allow retirees to benefit from increases in interest rates and returns without reductions in their age pension.
- The deeming rate has been frozen for the last two years with the top rate unchanged at 2.25 per cent.
- This benefits around 876,000 income support recipients, including 450,000 Age Pensioners.

Increase in rent assistance

- Increase all Commonwealth Rent Assistance maximum rates by 10 per cent to help address rental affordability challenges for recipients.
- This will benefit nearly 1 million households.

Increase in Jobseeker rate for single recipients with a partial capacity to work

- The higher rate of Jobseeker that applies to single recipients with dependent children and those aged 55 and over who have been on payment for nine continuous months or more will be extended to single recipients with the capacity to work 0-14 hours. Starting from 20 September 2024.

Increased flexibility for carer payment

- The participation limit for undertaking work, study and volunteering activities while receiving carer payment will be extended from 25 hours per week to 100 hours over four weeks and will only apply to employment activities, not studying, volunteering or travel time.
- The consequences of exceeding the participation limit will also be amended so see payments suspended rather than cancelled, and participants will be able to use single temporary cessation of care days rather than the current 7 day minimum.
- The majority of people receiving carer payment are women.
- The start date for this initiative: from 20 March 2025

Tax changes

Tax cuts

The Government has legislated tax cuts for all 13.6 million Australian taxpayers from 1 July 2024. These are:

- the 19 per cent tax rate will be reduced to 16 per cent
- the 32.5 per cent tax rate will be reduced to 30 per cent
- the income threshold above which the 37 per cent tax rate applies will be increased from \$120,000 to \$135,000
- the income threshold above which the 45 per cent tax rate applies will be increased from \$180,000 to \$190,000.

Cost of Living measures

Power Bill relief

To help Australians cope with rising living costs, the government is expanding its energy bill relief program. This \$3.5 billion initiative will now benefit all households, not just those previously eligible.

- Starting 1 July 2024, more than 10 million households will receive a \$300 rebate on their electricity bills.
- Additionally, around one million small businesses will get a boost of \$325.

This expansion of the program is expected to bring down inflation by about half a percentage point in the coming year without creating further inflationary pressures.

Cheaper Medicines

The Government is working to finalise the new Eighth Community Pharmacy Agreement, supported by up to an additional \$3 billion in funding. This aims to deliver cheaper medicines, improve patient health outcomes, and secure a strong community pharmacy sector. This includes:

- one-year freeze on the maximum Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) patient co-payment for everyone with a Medicare card and
- a five-year freeze for pensioners and other concession cardholders.

This change means that no pensioner or concession card holder will pay more than \$7.70 (plus any applicable manufacturer premiums) for up to five years.

Student debt relief

The Australian government announced a \$3 billion reduction in student loan debt for over 3 million people. This measure aims to ease the financial burden on borrowers while maintaining the system that allows access to higher education.

Following recommendations from the Universities Accord, the government will limit annual increases in student loan amounts (HELP indexation) to the lower rate between inflation (CPI) and wage growth (WPI).

This change is applied retroactively to all existing student loans, including HELP loans, VET Student Loans, and Australian Apprenticeship Support Loans. This approach aims to address the significant debt increase experienced by borrowers in 2023 and prevent future debt growth from outpacing wage increases. These changes are part of a broader effort to support student success, which also includes financial assistance for mandatory placements and apprentices in high-demand fields

Women's economic security

A number of measures under other headings in this document are directed at improving women's economic security, in particular the provision of superannuation on commonwealth paid parental leave (under "Superannuation") and flexibility of carer payment (under "Social Security"). While neither of these measures are limited to only women, it is predominantly women who will benefit.

Care workforce

The Government will invest \$30.0 million over two years from 2024-25 in IT and payment services to deliver on its commitment to provide funding towards a wage increase for the Early Childhood Education and Care sector. This will support a response to Fair Work Commission processes as they relate to this sector.

In addition, The Government will provide \$1.6 billion over 11 years to support nursing and midwifery, teaching and social work students in higher education and VET while they undertake mandatory placements required by their course. From 1 July 2025, the Commonwealth Prac Payment (CPP) will provide \$319.50 per week to eligible students for the duration of their placement. The CPP is expected to support more than 73,000 students per year.

Gender-based violence

The Government has invested in a range of measures that support the outcomes of the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032. Gender-based violence overwhelmingly affects women has a range of detrimental impacts on economic security and health outcomes.

The current budget includes funding to:

- establish an independent expert panel to undertake a rapid review of the approach to violence prevention and advise Government on additional efforts to end the cycle of violence.
- strengthen the Office of Women in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, to support whole-of-government coordination efforts towards women's safety.
- provide financial assistance to victim-survivors to leave violent relationships by permanently establishing the Leaving Violence Program based on the findings from the Escaping Violence Payment (EVP) trial and the Temporary Visa Holders Experiencing Violence Pilot (TVP).
- extend dispute resolution and legal assistance services for First Nations people, including separated and separating families and women experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, family and domestic violence.
- enhance collaboration and information sharing between law enforcement agencies, such as information about domestic violence related protection orders.
- develop and introduce a National Higher Education Code to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence.
- housing measures listed in the section on More Social and Affordable Housing.

Women's health

This year's budget includes several measures to address the unique healthcare needs of women, particularly around reproductive and sexual health. These include:

- better research and data on women's health
- more affordable breast cancer treatment
- improving quality of care with longer consults on the MBS
- giving women more contraception choice
- improving access to:
 - » period products
 - » affordable termination services
- support for menopause training
- participating midwives package
- support for:
 - » women experiencing miscarriage
 - » for preterm birth and stillbirth
- safeguarding the Birthing on Country model of care for First Nations women
- expanding mental health services

For employers

Support to administer Paid Parental leave

- \$10.0 million over two years from 2024-25 to provide additional support for small business employers in administering Paid Parental Leave.

Payday super and productivity measures

- \$60.0 million over four years from 2024-25 to increase the Productivity, Education and Training Fund to support practical activities by employer and worker representatives to boost workplace productivity and engage in tripartite cooperation. This will also support workplaces to implement policy changes such as the introduction of payday superannuation.

What's missing from the budget

No changes to LISTO

The government did not announce changes to the Low-Income Superannuation Tax Offset (LISTO). In its pre-budget submission SMC proposed a change to the LISTO thresholds to ensure the policy operates as originally intended. That is, to make the super tax system fairer for low-income earners by ensuring they did not pay more tax on their super contributions than on their take-home pay.

Realigning eligibility and increasing the offset amount through minor adjustments to the framework will go some way to making super tax settings fairer for low-income earners.

Changes needed to ensure LISTO operates as originally intended

	SG rate	Legislated		Revised Policy	
		Amount	Threshold	Amount	Threshold
2023-24	11.0%	\$500	\$37,000	\$750	\$45,000
2024-25	11.5%	\$500	\$37,000	\$780	\$45,000
2025-26	12.0%	\$500	\$37,000	\$810	\$45,000