



# Building Better Healthcare

BUILDING OUR FUTURE  
MAY 2011

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## Better, sooner, more convenient healthcare

Our public health service faces many challenges – an ageing population, workforce pressures, and costly new technologies and services that are changing how treatment is provided. National is working hard to meet these challenges and improve frontline health services.

### MORE DOCTORS AND NURSES

500 more doctors and 1000 more nurses.

1900 doctors, nurses, and midwives in our **voluntary bonding** scheme working in hard-to-staff areas and specialities.

200 more places at medical school by 2013.

### ✓ More patients getting elective surgery

National has delivered the largest ever increase in elective surgery – necessary operations such as hip and knee replacements, cataract operations, and ear, nose and throat operations.

20,000 more elective discharges a year compared to 2008.

400 more operations every week.

### ✓ Shorter waits for radiation treatment

Patients are getting cancer radiation treatment more quickly. Previously some patients waited up to 15 weeks, with some being sent to Australia for treatment. **Now, all patients who need cancer radiation treatment start it within four weeks.**

### ✓ Shorter stays in emergency departments

In 2009 less than 80% of emergency patients were seen within six hours. We've increased that to 89%.

### ✓ Increased immunisation

More children are being immunised. In 2007, only 71% of children under 2 were fully immunised. **Now, 90% get the immunisations they need.**

### NEXT STEPS: BUDGET 2011

**\$14 BILLION** total Health spending this year, the most ever.

**\$2.2 BILLION** new Health spending, over four years in Budget 2011, with \$585m available for initiatives in 2011/12.

**\$68 MILLION** for even more **elective surgeries**, to meet our goal of 4000 more each year.

**\$18 MILLION** for 40 **extra places in medical school.**

**\$44 MILLION** for supporting **dementia patients**, including an extra 200 residential care beds, and more in-home carers over the next two years.

**\$20 MILLION** for **more medicines** this year, taking the total extra funding for medicines to \$180 million over National's three years in office.

**\$54.5 MILLION** for **maternity services**, with a focus on first-time mothers. This includes 54,000 more WellChild visits.

**\$12 MILLION** to help **reduce rheumatic fever** in vulnerable communities.