2026 FEDERAL BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Bad news for Small Business

 Instant Asset Write off slashed from \$20K to \$1K – normal depreciation rules will revert back to pre-October 2020 rules

Individual Tax Relief

- 1/7/26 16% to 15%
- 1/7/27 15% to 14%

Singles	26,000 to 27,222
Family	43,846 to 45,907
Single seniors	41,089 to 43,020
Family Seniors	57,198 to 59,886
Families +dependent child or student	4,027 to 4,216

• Medicare Levy reduction - increase in threshold

Strengthening Medicare

- \$7.9B to make 9/10 GP visits bulk billed by 2030
- \$1.8B funding boost to public hospitals
- 50 additional Medicare urgent care clinics
- \$662.6M to grow the workforce of doctors and nurses
- \$792.9M to deliver lower costs, more choice and better healthcare for women
- Cap on PBS scripts of \$25

Spending on Infrastructure

- \$7.2B for safety upgrades on Bruce Highway in QLD
- \$2.3B for projects in Western Sydney, including Southwest Sydney Rail
- \$2B for Sunshine Station Melbourne Airport Rail
- \$3B over 7 years for NBN upgrade

Business Investment

- \$56.7M in Energy efficiency Grants for Small & Medium Enterprises up to \$25K funding a range of energy upgrades
- \$2B in Green Aluminium Credits over 19 years to switch to renewal energy
- \$1B over 7 years to iron ore producers to transition to low emissions facilities
- \$219.3M to bale out Whyalla Steelworks
- \$2B to Clean Energy Finance Corporation to invest in renewables

Restricting Foreign Ownership of housing

• There is a restriction on foreign housing ownership, except where:

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- o the investment significantly increases housing supply or support for the availability of housing on a commercial scale; and
- o purchases by foreign-owned companies to provide housing for workers in certain circumstances.
- \$5.7M invested in ATO enforcement & 8.9M to prevent land-banking by foreign investors

Boost to housing investment

- \$4.7M over 4 years from 24-25 to develop a voluntary certification & rating scheme for prefabricated and modular housing manufacturers; and
- \$49.3M over 2 years from 25-26 to support state and territories to scale up existing projects for prefabricated and modular housing construction
- National occupational licensing for electrical trades to allow electricians to move to where they're needed most

Investment to expand the "Help to Buy" scheme

- Allows eligible home buyers to "co-buy" their property with the government reducing the size of the deposit or mortgage required – up to 40% contribution from the government
- Income Cap for Singles 90K to 100K
- Income Cap for Joint applicants 120K to 160K
- Applications open later 2025
- \$4.9M over 4 years from 25-26 to continue the Regional Home Guarantee & Family Home Guarantee streams

Education Investment

- \$626.9M over 4 years to expand the New Energy Apprenticeships Program
- \$407.5M over 4 years to deliver reforms to lift education standards
- \$77.8M over 4 years to extend Apprenticeship Incentive program until 31 December
 2025
- Up to \$10K for apprentices in housing construction to complete their apprenticeship
- \$4.5M over 4 years to implement the Child Care Subsidy 3 day guarantee to give all families <\$530K income to the childcare subsidy for 3 days per week
- \$2.2M to extend the STEM program
- Reducing outstanding student debt by 20%
- Higher minimum payment thresholds for student debt
- New University funding support
- 100,000 free TAFE places every year from 2027

Cost of Living Support

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- \$1.8B to extend energy bill relief extended to December 2025 \$75 quarterly payments
- Banning most non-competes (employees not allowed to move between jobs), and
 \$2.6B to increase award wages of aged care nurses
- Limit rent increases to 1 per year
- Strengthen renters' rights framework on genuine reasons for eviction

Welfare

- \$4B to address gender-based violence
- \$842.6M to support critical services in remote first nations communities in NT
- \$423.8M to support people with a disability

Compliance Investment

- Focus on cash economy ie benchmarking audits
- Individual Tax Deductions outside parameters
- Meeting obligations
- increase in Tax Practitioner Regulation, including:
 - o Protection from unlawful advice
 - o Support for tax agents to return to practice after absences