



THE DEVIL IS ALWAYS IN THE DETAIL AND BUDGET 2021-22 IS NO DIFFERENT WITH MANY GAPS REMAINING

There are many areas of need in the community, business and employment the Morrison Government has applied a broad brush to this evening. What matters is the detail and much is missing that matters to some of the most vulnerable in the community.

“Better Access Australia notes the long overdue listing of Emgality® for chronic migraine on the PBS from 1 June, 731 days since it was first registered for use in Australia and 692 days from when it was first considered by the PBAC.

“These timeframes reinforce that our system for access to novel and new treatments is one of unacceptable delay, and it is time for community expectations of access within 100 days of TGA registration to be the basis on which our system is developed and modernised.

“Industry and Government need to do better and the lack of an announcement on the timing of the National Medicines Policy Review is a stark absence from this budget.

“Minister Hunt’s announcement of extended funding for the *Take Home Naloxone Program* reflects a Minister who gives with one hand and continually takes with the other.

“A Government committed to tackling the risks of overdose and addiction cannot make this commitment and then ask the thousands of patients on the *Opiate Dependence Treatment Program* to wait two years for a government decision on whether to end the discriminatory fees it recommends that makes their medicines unaffordable.

“And in a budget focussed on reproductive health, we see almost \$100m invested in genetic testing in IVF but silence on the outstanding need for newborn screening for all babies not just those born via IVF technology.

“Australia led the world in newborn screening in the 1980s, we lead the world in IVF technology, but too many children and adults are waiting too long for a diagnosis for a treatable disease because Minister Hunt will not take a leadership role and expand our newborn screening programs.

“Finally Better Access Australia notes the potential changes to Private Health Insurance through the *modernisation and improvement of the administration of the Protheses List*.

“Any review must start from the premise of what patients want – not just what government and industry want. When we have a shorter waiting time for a hip replacement than a medicine to treat migraine we should all be wary of who owns this process for health reform and its outcomes – if it is anyone other than patients, we have a problem. As always, the devil is in the detail.

#Mindthegap in equality of access to health care in Budget 2021-22.

BETTER ACCESS AUSTRALIA

BETTER HEALTH, DISABILITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

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