

Media Release
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Naturopath Association expresses disappointment in budget for vital endometriosis research

The Naturopaths and Herbalists Associations of Australia (NHAA) has today expressed its disappointment that the Federal Government's 2022-23 Budget failed to include additional funding for endometriosis research.

Australian naturopaths and herbalists, including members of the NHAA have long been calling for additional funding to improve endometriosis care and treatment, and last month congratulated the Government on a A\$58 million funding package for these measures.

The Federal funding announcement would see new specialised endometriosis and pelvic pain clinics set up in each state and territory, expanded Medicare-funded medical imaging for the condition, and support for women who manage endometriosis with their GP, among other measures.

But the NHAA said more needed to be given to support the estimated one in nine Australian women with endometriosis.

Endometriosis is estimated to cost A\$9.7 billion each year to the Australian economy. Most of these costs come from lost productivity at work.

NHAA Vice President and Naturopath, Hannah Boyd said the lack of additional funding to help Australian women suffering from endometriosis was disappointing.

"Endometriosis is an extremely complex and chronic condition that impacts around 10% of ovulating population. That's around 190 million people worldwide," Boyd said.

"Currently, there is no cure for endometriosis, and more effective treatment options are desperately needed.

"The average time for diagnosis for sufferers of endometriosis is between seven and 10 years, showing that more education for health care professionals is needed across the board.

"Complementary medicine practitioners are well placed to support endometriosis, we see these women in our clinics every day, we talk about period and hormone health in detail, we refer them for further investigations and help reduce the time to diagnosis. The government need to do more for endometriosis research."

[A survey release](#) by the Australian Research Centre in Complementary and Integrative Medicine, University of Technology Sydney, and the National Centre for Naturopathic Medicine, Southern Cross University, in February this year found women who use naturopathy for endometriosis appear to be high users of health care services, both within complementary medicine and conventional medicine. The efficacy and role of naturopathic treatments and care for women with endometriosis requires further investigation.