

2025-2026

# PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION

Proposal by:

**Polio Australia**  
*Representing polio survivors throughout Australia*



# About Polio Australia

Polio Australia is dedicated to supporting those affected by polio living in Australia. Our mission is to ensure that all polio survivors have access to appropriate health care and the support required to maintain independence and make informed lifestyle choices.

## Executive Summary

Polio Australia seeks funding in the 2025-2026 federal budget to enhance support for polio survivors' health and care quality across Australia. Our proposals aim to improve post-polio health outcomes, increase societal and clinical awareness of post-polio conditions, and ensure the sustainability of condition-specific services for the polio community.

# Recommendations

To advance our mission, Polio Australia seeks funding support to implement programs and staffing that will enhance our operational capacity, expand stakeholder education, and ensure that critical resources remain up to date and widely accessible.

- 1 - Establish a National Post-Polio Register
- 2 - Employ Full-Time Administrative Officer
- 3 - Research Funding for Post-Polio Syndrome
- 4 - Clinical Educator and Programs Lead
- 5 - Public Health Engagement Facilitator
- 6 - National Awareness and Education Campaign
- 7 - Develop Discipline-Specific eLearning Modules for Clinicians
- 8 - Redesign and Development of Polio Australia's Websites
- 9 - Review, Update and Republishing of the Clinical Education Manual

Our proposed initiatives include establishing a National Post-Polio Register to strengthen epidemiological understanding, employing dedicated administrative and specialised staff to progress our essential work, and securing research funding to drive evidence-based clinical practice and policy. We also aim to develop discipline-specific eLearning modules for healthcare professionals, redesign our primary websites to better serve our community, and launch a national awareness campaign to improve early recognition and intervention for post-polio conditions. Additionally, we seek support to update and republish our clinical education manual, ensuring that best-practice guidelines are widely available.

These investments will enable Polio Australia to continue providing essential advocacy, education, and support for polio survivors across the country.

## 1 - Establishment of a National Post-Polio Register

- **Proposal:** Develop and maintain a health system and AIHW integrated register of people living in Australia who contracted polio.
- **Rationale:** A national register will facilitate better understanding of the demographics and needs of those experiencing and at risk for post-polio health challenges, enabling targeted health interventions and improved policy planning.
- **Funding Required:** \$337,400 over 4 years.
- **Funding Utilisation:** Employment of a part-time public health statistician for Polio Australia.

## 2 - Employment of an Administrative Officer

- **Proposal:** Employ a full-time administrative officer to manage day-to-day operations, community engagement, and sector communications for Polio Australia.
- **Rationale:** As a small but busy organisation, Polio Australia requires additional staff capacity to ensure continuity of operations, enhance communication with national and international stakeholders, and streamline administrative processes.
- **Funding Required:** \$306,960 over three years.
- **Funding Utilisation:** Employment of a full-time administrative officer at Polio Australia (inclusive of salary and on-costs), remote office hardware, software.

## 3 - Research Funding for Post-Polio Syndrome

- **Proposal:** Allocate funds for research into the progression, treatment, and management of post-polio syndrome.
- **Rationale:** Investing in research will lead to improved clinical practices and health outcomes for polio survivors.
- **Funding Required:** \$298,050 over 3 years.
- **Funding Utilisation:** Research associate funding to investigate post-polio interventional evidence hierarchy and population experiences, to refine and publish clinical pathways.

## 4 - Clinical Educator and Programs Lead

- **Proposal:** Advance Polio Australia's post-polio specific clinical expertise and capacity to reach stakeholder audiences through direct education and program delivery.
- **Rationale:** Our mission is reliant on having expert staff to identify, design, and implement clinician and other sector stakeholder education on post-polio and those affected by polio living in Australia.
- **Funding Required:** \$510,750 over 3 years.
- **Funding Utilisation:** Employment of a full-time clinical educator and programs lead at Polio Australia (inclusive of salary and on-costs), remote office hardware, software, and monthly interstate travel.

## 5 - Public Health Engagement Facilitator

- **Proposal:** Employ a full-time Public Health Engagement Facilitator at Polio Australia to lead community education initiatives, stakeholder engagement, and advocacy efforts across Australia.
- **Rationale:** This role will enhance Polio Australia's ability to deliver in-person and online community education sessions, increase public awareness, and foster collaborations with community health, thereby reducing post-polio misinformation, improving health outcomes, and strengthening responses to post-polio health challenges.
- **Funding Required:** \$420,750 over 3 years.
- **Funding Utilisation:** Employment of a full-time Public Health Engagement Facilitator at Polio Australia (inclusive of salary and on-costs), remote office hardware, software, monthly interstate travel, and presentation equipment.

## 6 - National Awareness and Education Campaign

- **Proposal:** Launch a campaign to raise awareness about the needs of those living with post-polio and educate healthcare professionals on post-polio health conditions.
- **Rationale:** Increased awareness will lead to better diagnosis, treatment, and support for polio survivors, reducing long-term healthcare costs.
- **Funding Required:** \$305,900 over 2 years.
- **Funding Utilisation:** Two annual \$70,000 media campaigns and employment of a part time media and communications specialist (inclusive of salary and on-costs) to implement the campaigns at Polio Australia.

## 7 - Development of Discipline-Specific eLearning Modules for Clinicians

- **Proposal:** Create and publish six discipline-specific eLearning modules for clinical utilisation Australia-wide, to enable informed medical and allied health care to individuals affected by polio. The modules will cover disciplines such as general practice, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech pathology, podorthotics, and mental health.
- **Rationale:** Education tailored to each clinical discipline will equip healthcare professionals with the necessary skills to manage post-polio conditions effectively, ensuring consistent, evidence-based care and reducing variability in treatment quality.
- **Funding Required:** \$280,500 over 2 years.
- **Funding Utilisation:** Instructional design services, subject matter expert consulting, module hosting and promotion, and 12 months of enhancement.

## 8 - Redesign and Development of Polio Australia's Primary Websites

- **Proposal:** Redesign and modernise Polio Australia's two primary websites, polioaustralia.org.au and poliohealth.org.au, to improve accessibility, user experience, and the delivery of resources for polio survivors, healthcare professionals, and the broader community.
- **Rationale:** The current websites are ageing and lack the functionality to effectively meet the growing needs of polio survivors and clinicians. An updated design and functionality will ensure better engagement, resource access, and usability across devices and demographics.
- **Funding Required:** \$247,450 over 2 years.
- **Funding Utilisation:** Web design services for the redesign of two websites, and part-time employment of a resource development officer (inclusive of salary and on-costs) at Polio Australia.

## 9 - Review, Update, and Republishing of the Clinical Education Manual

- **Proposal:** Review, update, and republish Polio Australia's clinical education manual, "Managing Muscles and Mobility", in both electronic and hard copy formats.
- **Rationale:** The manual is an essential resource for clinicians supporting polio survivors. Updating the content with the latest research and clinical practices will ensure the manual remains a trusted and accurate reference. Reformatting and republishing it in electronic and print versions will increase accessibility and distribution.
- **Funding Required:** \$95,000 over 1 year.
- **Funding Utilisation:** Subject matter expert for 4 months to review and update existing manual, and design consultant for manual's re-design; and printing 1000 hard copies with sales management.



# Funding Summary

PROJECT	TIME FRAME	COST
National Polio Register	4 years	\$337,400
Employment of Full Time Administrative Officer	3 years	\$306,960
Research Funding for Post-Polio Syndrome	3 years	\$298,050
Clinical Educator and Programs Lead	3 years	\$510,750
Public Health Engagement Faciliator	3 years	\$420,750
National Awareness and Education Campaign	2 years	\$305,900
Development of Discipline-Specific eLearning Modules for Clinicians	2 years	\$280,500
Redesign and Development of Polio Australia's Primary Websites	2 years	\$247,450
Review, Update and Republishing of the Clinical Education Manual	1 year	\$95,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>\$2,802,760</b>

## Conclusion

Polio Australia urges the Australian Government to consider these recommendations in the 2025-2026 federal budget. Investing in these initiatives will significantly enhance the well-being of polio survivors and contribute to a more inclusive and supportive healthcare system.

# CONTACT INFORMATION



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