# NSW Budget **2024-25**



## **Sophie Cotsis**

Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Work Health and Safety

# Media Release

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Minns Government puts workers first with wages and workplace protections

The Minns Labor Government is committed to rebuilding the State's essential workforce through a Budget designed to reward, retain and protect people across NSW.

### Paying workers fairly

More than 400,000 public sector workers and their families have been offered certainty through a baseline wage offer of 10.5 per cent (including superannuation) over three years.

The offer also includes an annual \$1,000 cost of living payment to protect workers if average annual Sydney CPI to the March Quarter rises above 4.5 per cent.

This is the next step in upholding Labor's promise to attract, reward and retain essential workers including hospital staff, school staff, police and all other public sector employees.

It builds on more than 12 months of reform that started with removing the wages cap, delivering the biggest pay rise in a decade last year and modernising industrial relations in NSW.

#### Saving lives from Silicosis

The 2024-25 NSW Budget strengthens protections against the dangers of silicosis. A \$2.5 million investment will enable SafeWork NSW to implement and ensure compliance with the national ban on the use, supply and manufacture of engineered stone from 1 July this year.

This is in addition to \$5 million in critical funding already delivered for silicosis research and a patient support program for workers and their families who've been exposed to silica dust.

A Silica Worker Register is also being established from the Workers Compensation Operational Fund, to track at-risk workers across NSW.

This Budget delivers on the Minns Labor Government's promise to provide families with dignified, stable and secure jobs, and to ensure that they come home to their families safely.

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