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Australian govt invests $20 M to expand country's largest and only onshore manufacturer of IV fluids

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To cover IV demand for Australia and not depend on overseas supply



The Albanese Labor Government is building Australia's future by investing in an expansion of Australia's onshore manufacturing capability for IV (intravenous) fluids, a medical supply of critical importance for surgical operations and hospital care, among other medical uses.

A $20 million investment will expand Australia's largest and only onshore manufacturer of IV fluids, and deliver many more jobs at the Baxter Healthcare production facility in Western Sydney, helping to secure supply and shore up Australia's sovereign capability of the critical hospital medicine.

Baxter Healthcare will match the investment with $20 million of its own, expanding local IV fluid production by at least 20 million units.

This investment will ensure from 2027, 80 million units are produced each year.

Australia began to see a shortage of IV fluids in early 2023, with the Therapeutic Goods Administration predicting that global supply issues are likely to continue during 2025.

In response to the shortage, the Albanese Government worked with local producers and suppliers to secure supply of over 22 million IV fluid bags and brought together a cross-jurisdictional Response Group that includes all states and territories, private hospital representatives and the primary care sector through the Australian Medical Association.

This $20 million investment in Australia's sovereign capability in IV fluid production is part of a broader programme of work to secure supply of this critical hospital medicine, which includes: a clinical review of their use in Australia to ensure the best use of IV fluids, and establishing a panel of suppliers to help reduce any future shortfalls.