THE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF MALTA

BUDGET 2027: KEY POINTS FOR THE MEDIA

Summary of MAM press release | 31 October 2026

THE MAIN MESSAGE

MAM opposes Budget measures it considers punitive and discriminatory towards third-country nationals (TCNs). Making life harder for international doctors, nurses and carers risks weakening the services Maltese families rely on.

WHY THIS MATTERS

- Malta needs more healthcare staff: population growth, ageing and rising service demand are putting pressure on recruitment and retention.
- Falling birth rates will constrain the future local workforce. Malta cannot rely on domestic training alone to meet every staffing need.
- International doctors already provide emergency, specialist, night, weekend and public-holiday care alongside Maltese colleagues.
- Patients and their families may depend on an international doctor in a life-threatening emergency. These are people who help save lives, not just immigration statistics.
- Higher commuting/driving costs and restricted childcare support can make demanding shift work and family life more difficult for affected TCNs.
- TCN nurses and carers also look after elderly parents, people with disabilities and other vulnerable relatives, enabling families to work.
- Malta competes internationally for skilled healthcare professionals. Unfavourable living conditions risk discouraging new recruits and pushing experienced staff to leave.
- If shortages worsen, the possible consequences include longer waiting lists, less available care, heavier staff workloads and patient-safety risks.

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WHAT MAM IS ASKING FOR

- Review or withdraw disproportionate financial measures affecting essential TCN workers.
- Protect affordable transport and childcare for international healthcare workers and their families.
- Exempt doctors and other essential healthcare workers from the new €400 infrastructure contribution.
- Provide more secure employment and residence arrangements, with fair recognition of qualifications and experience.
- Adopt a long-term workforce plan covering training, recruitment, retention, career progression, work-life balance, pay and pensions.

QUOTE FOR PUBLICATION

"We must not create a country where we welcome international doctors to save our lives but make it increasingly difficult for them to build a life of their own."

"The people who care for Malta deserve a Malta that cares for them."

Dr. Patrick Sammut 99994494
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