Prioritising Mental Health – Psychosocial Support Services – funding

This measure provides $80 million for community mental health (CMH) services – otherwise known as psychosocial support – to assist people with severe mental illness resulting in psychosocial disability who are not eligible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

It reduces the CMH service gap and provides continuity of support for existing clients of Commonwealth-funded psychosocial services, improving mental health outcomes and reducing inequity in service availability. The funding is contingent upon states and territories contributing funding to the program to account for emerging gaps in state and territory psychosocial services and their continuity of support obligations in relation to the NDIS rollout. This will secure a national approach to maintaining CMH services outside the NDIS – noting that states and territories retain primary responsibility for CMH services.

Why is this important?

This measure will deliver continued community mental health psychosocial support. It recognises the importance of services outside the NDIS and the needs of the broader community for psychosocial services.

This measure also helps continue support for existing clients of Commonwealth (and state and territory) CMH programs who are deemed not eligible for the NDIS.

Who will benefit?

The proposal provides supports for people with severe mental illness resulting in psychosocial disability who do not meet NDIS eligibility requirements for severity and permanence.

How much will this cost?

The Commonwealth contribution will cost $80 million from 2017–18 to 2020–21.