



Prioritising Mental Health – research

This measure invests \$15 million over two years to support mental health research within Australia, by increasing research capacity for early intervention and prevention that will help improve the mental health and wellbeing of Australians.

Specifically, this investment provides:

- \$5 million to Orygen, the National Centre of Excellence in Youth Mental Health, to help complete an integrated healthcare and translational research facility in Melbourne.
- \$5 million to the Sunshine Coast Mind and Neuroscience – Thompson Institute for research involving young people with major mood or psychiatric disorders and in suicide prevention.
- \$5 million to the NSW-based Black Dog Institute, in collaboration with the Hunter Institute, to translate research findings into improved and innovative service delivery for people with anxiety and depression.

Why is this important?

Mental illness is a significant contributor to the burden of disease in Australia, being the third largest cause of total disease burden and the leading cause of non-fatal burden.

One in five Australian adults will experience a mental illness in their lifetime. In addition, almost one in seven young people aged four to 17 years will experience mental illness in a year. Less than half of people with mental illness access treatment each year, and untreated mental illness incurs significant personal and economic cost.

Research and innovation is essential to improving our health system, ensuring effectiveness of interventions and enabling better methods of preventing and treating illness and disease.

This measure builds on the Government's long term mental health plan by better targeting investment and effort towards prevention and early intervention. There are genuine flow-on benefits to health, reduced service costs and greater social and economic participation by people affected by mental illness. It helps translate research into practical treatments, programs and diagnostic tools that can be utilised within clinical practice and through easily accessible online treatment programs.

Who will benefit?

Ultimately, this measure will benefit Australians who are affected by mental health illness through the delivery of up-to-the-minute, evidence-based practice.

How much will this cost?

This measure will cost \$15 million from 2017–18 to 2018–19.