



## **The Hon. Greg Hunt MP**

Minister for Health

## **Senator the Hon. Bridget McKenzie**

Minister for Sport

Minister for Rural Health

Minister for Regional Communications

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

8 January 2018

### **\$110 million additional investment in child and youth mental health**

The Turnbull Government is continuing to build on record levels of investment in mental health services with an additional \$110 million to extend and expand mental health programs for young Australians.

We know that around four million Australians experience a mental health condition every year.

And people of all ages can be affected – either directly themselves or because someone close to them might be suffering. Even young children can be deeply affected.

As part of the funding announced today, *beyondblue* will receive up to \$46 million for its integrated school-based Mental Health in Education initiative.

*beyondblue* will use the funding to continue providing information, advice and support to teachers and early childhood workers so that they can teach children and young people skills for good social and emotional development, work together with families, and recognise and get help for children and young people going through a difficult time or a family crisis.

*Emerging Minds* will receive \$16 million for the National Workforce Support in Child Mental Health initiative.

The funding will be used to continue delivering support to professionals and services who work with children, and the parents and families of these children, to identify, assist and refer children at risk of mental health difficulties and promote resilience building.

These positive initiatives will help schools and communities to support the well-being and mental health of our kids and respond rapidly to personal and community challenges.

Funding of \$2.5 million will also provide for an evaluation of the National Support for Child and Youth Mental Health Program – which today we are extending until June 2021.

The *headspace National Youth Mental Health Foundation* will receive additional funding of \$30 million for the headspace national program allowing it to provide further support to Primary Health Networks in commissioning headspace services.

*Orygen* will receive additional funding of \$13.5 million for the operation of the National Centre of Excellence in Youth Mental Health to continue to provide national leadership for youth mental health in research, policy advice and workforce training.

The extension of funding announced today for these key child and youth mental health initiatives will provide a stable funding base for the great work done by these organisations.

The digital space is also playing an increasing role in the delivery of mental health care.

Today we are also announcing additional support for a number of digital mental health services.

The Turnbull Government will provide an additional \$1.8 million over two years to four existing Commonwealth funded digital mental health services that provide telephone, webchat and other online support.

These services are Kids Helpline, ReachOut, Suicide Callback Service and QLife.

Keeping children and young people healthy and happy is good for them, their families and for the broader community.

That's why the Turnbull Government is committed to delivering vital mental health services across the country.

(ENDS)