



## Prioritising Mental Health – adult mental health centres

The Government will boost mental health support for adults, funding a new trial of eight adult community mental health centres. These centres will provide a range of mental health support services over extended operating hours. People seeking help, particularly in times of crisis, will have access to on-the-spot treatment, advice, and support provided by a variety of mental health professionals – without needing a prior appointment.

The centres will ensure that people are provided appropriate immediate support and are connected to pathways of less urgent longer-term care by integrating with other local community services including GPs, local Primary Health Network (PHN) services, and state-operated services. They will also be able to assist people to access related health and social services. The centres will reduce the number of emergency department presentations by providing a more accessible entry point to the mental health system.

### Why is this important?

Improving access to mental health services is a key pillar of the Government's long term health plan. Navigating the extensive range of mental health services available in communities can be challenging, especially in times of acute need. These centres will provide a highly visible and easily accessible entry point to the mental health system. They will offer immediate triage, treatment, and, if necessary, onward referral. By linking to local services, they will act to integrate and coordinate pathways of care.

The extended hours of operation mean they will also provide a true alternative to hospital emergency departments. In 2017–18, there were more than 250,000 mental health-related emergency department presentations. These centres will provide more appropriate places to seek help, with rapid access to qualified mental health professionals.

### Who will benefit?

Adults with mental health issues who need immediate help will benefit from the new adult mental health centres.

### How much will this cost?

This will cost \$114.5 million from 2020–21 to 2024–25.