



## Prioritising Mental Health – community mental health

The Government will provide \$275 million to support a range of national and local mental health initiatives designed to ensure that our communities can access the best possible care in times of need. This critical component of the Government's \$736 million mental health Budget will strengthen the mental health system's capability to deliver high-quality, coordinated prevention, early intervention and crisis support services across the lifespan.

Key projects with a national impact include:

- \$114.5 million for a trial of eight new walk-in adult community mental health centres;
- \$63 million for the establishment of six residential eating disorders treatment centres;
- \$44 million to support parents affected by perinatal mental health challenges;
- \$15.2 million to promote and sustain mentally healthy workplaces, including:
  - \$11.5 million for the National Mentally Healthy Workplaces Alliance,
  - \$2.5 million to protect the mental wellbeing of our police forces; and
  - \$1.2 million for a MATES in Construction.

This investment complements a range of targeted projects addressing the needs of specific local communities, to guarantee all Australians have access to frontline services, regardless of their geographical location. These include, among others:

- \$5.5 million for communities in Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania affected by natural disasters;
- \$7 million for the Mind Gardens Alliance to establish a comprehensive brain disorders clinic in Sydney;
- \$6 million for the Midland Mental Health Emergency Centre to provide care in the Swan and surrounding areas;
- \$1.2 million for the establishment of a non-clinical suicide prevention and recovery centre in partnership with Roses in the Ocean; and
- \$2 million for HALT suicide prevention workers in North and East Melbourne.

These measures are in addition to a range of other community-based services funded through our Community Health and Hospitals Program (CHHP), and the Government's unprecedented \$461 million youth mental health and suicide prevention plan.

**Why is this important?**

Improving the quality of, and access to, mental health services is a key pillar of the long term health plan.

We recognise that navigating the range of mental health services available can be challenging. Adult mental health centres will provide an accessible entry point into the system, and provide better integration and coordination of existing mental health services.

Approximately 1 million Australians suffer from an eating disorder. These are complex illnesses that require intensive wrap-around treatment to ensure recovery. Residential centres are essential to deliver this care.

It is estimated that 100,000 people are affected by perinatal depression and anxiety each year. Providing timely support benefits the individuals and their families.

With 12.6 million Australians employed, workplaces are the ideal setting to promote mental health. Mentally healthy workplaces help to attract and retain staff, boost innovation and maintain staff wellbeing.

As efforts to destigmatise mental illness transform the way Australians think about mental health, it is important that appropriate coordinated services are available. Providing tailored solutions for the needs of local communities is key to ensuring that all Australians can get care and support when and where it is needed.

**Who will benefit?**

This will benefit a range of people impacted by mental illness.

**How much will this cost?**

This will cost \$275 million.