

2021-22 Victorian State Budget Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

The Hon. James Merlino MP

Acting Premier

Minister for Mental Health



Department
of Health

Why we called a Royal Commission Commission's report

Time to act.

- One in five Victorians experiencing mental illness
- More than 170,000 had accessed help in the previous 12 months
- People were falling through the cracks
- Mental health system was overwhelmed and outdated.



Special sitting of Parliament, Royal Exhibition Building, 2 March 2021

The reform story so far

Landmark reform to create a system Victorians deserve.

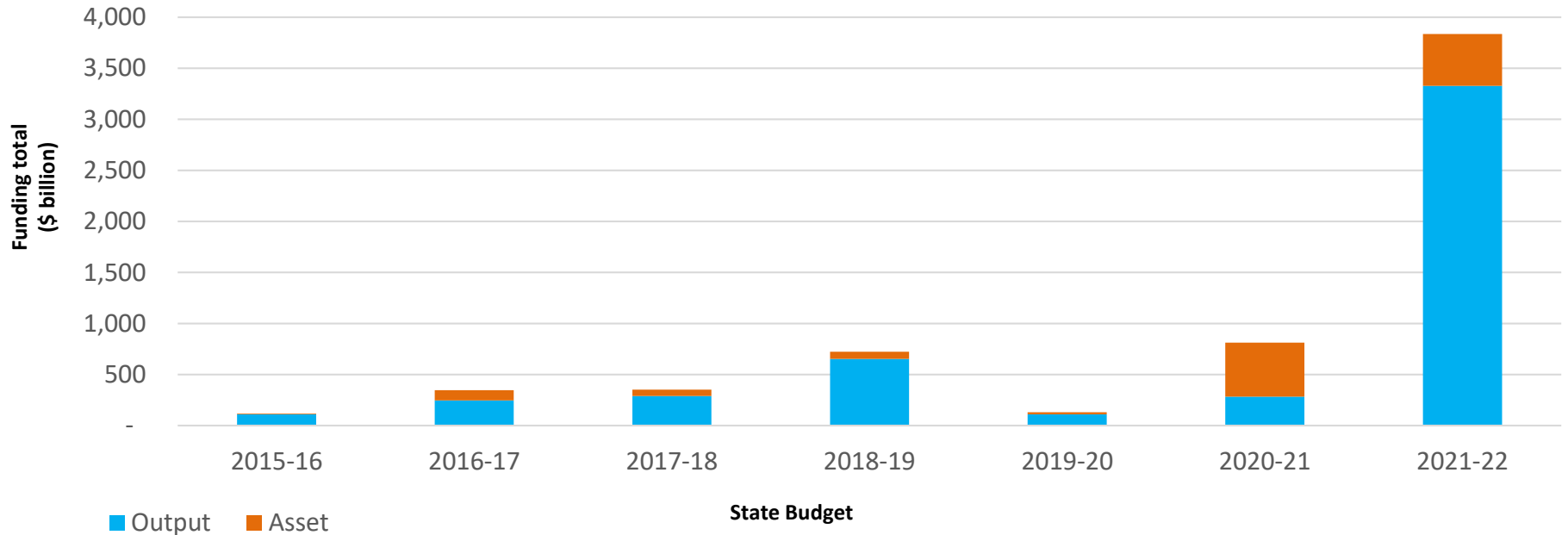
- **November 2018:** Commitment by Victorian Government to reform mental health system
- **February 2019:** Royal Commission called to re-shape system
- **November 2019:** Interim Report tabled; initiated the early work
- **November 2020:** State Budget invested \$571 million to progress interim recommendations
- **2020-now:** HOPE services, acute and HITH beds, more nurses and doctors in place.

Invests **\$3.8 billion** in mental health services for Victorians.

- Providing greater clinical care and community support services to Victorians in need
- Funding builds on the **\$868.6 million** committed in the *2020-21 Victorian State Budget*
- Focused on implementing the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System.

Record investment to start rebuilding the system

Output/asset breakdown for mental health budget initiatives.



A new system with community-based services at its core



The budget includes:

\$263.7 m

For new local services for adults and older adults, supporting people in their communities

\$954.3 m

To reform area services to better support the mental health and wellbeing of adults and older adults

\$266 m

For supporting the mental health and wellbeing of young people.

\$195.8 m

To support the mental health and wellbeing of infants, children and families

\$370 m

For new models of care for bed-based services that are safe and compassionate

\$34.8 m

For a new approach to commissioning: integrated regional governance.

Overall investment will start:



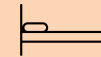
Up to 60 new mental health and wellbeing services for adults and older adults



22 new services to support adults with complex needs



13 new infant child and youth services



Home and community-based service options



More services based in rural and regional areas



8 new Regional Mental Health and Wellbeing boards to make sure communities have the services they need.

Services that are responsive to people's level of need



The budget includes:

\$10.8 m

For improved support for people with higher levels of specialised need - expanding state-wide services

\$1.7 m

To design a new state-wide trauma service to better support people with lived experience of trauma

\$7.5 m

To establish Ambulance Victoria as the lead responder to triple zero calls primarily concerning mental illness or psychological distress

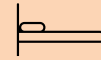
\$42.3 m

To support people living with mental illness and substance use or addiction through integrated care

\$30.7 m

To support the mental health and wellbeing of people in contact with, or at risk of coming into contact with, the criminal and youth justice systems.

Overall investment will start:



More choice for people who need specialised or acute care.



A new service to better support people with lived experience of trauma.



A 24-hour contact service to support Victorians in crisis.



A new state-wide service to better support people living with mental illness and substance use or addiction.



Better services for adults and young people at risk, or in contact with the criminal and youth justice systems.

Promoting good mental health and wellbeing where people live, work and learn



The budget includes:

\$32.1 m

Promoting good mental health and wellbeing and preventing mental illness

\$173.4 m

To facilitate government and community-wide suicide prevention and response effort

\$45.8 m

For supported housing for adults and young people living with mental illness (\$40.3 million in output and \$5.4 million asset funding)

\$200 m

For mental health reform in education: setting up children and young people to thrive.

Overall investment will start:



A new Mental Health Promotion Office to lead Victoria's mental health and wellbeing strategy.



A new Suicide Prevention and Response Office to lead strategy with the Commonwealth and partners.



Priority access to public housing for Victorians living with mental illness at risk of homelessness.



Mental health programs and activities to support the mental health and wellbeing of students and school communities.

Supporting all Victorians to experience their best mental health and wellbeing



The budget includes:

\$116.2 m

For supporting Aboriginal social and emotional wellbeing

\$26.2 m

To work in partnership with and improving accessibility for diverse communities

\$13.3 m

Supporting the mental health and wellbeing of people in rural and regional Victoria.

Overall investment will start:



A new Social and Emotional Wellbeing Centre to lead culturally safe care for Aboriginal people, families and communities.



Funding for new and existing programs to ensure Victoria's diverse communities have equal access to mental health and wellbeing services.



Extra services to ensure regional and rural communities have access to mental health and wellbeing support.

New system foundations



The budget includes:

\$18.5 m

To create a mental health and wellbeing system with lived experience at the core

\$92.7 m

To support families, carers and supporters

\$47.5 m

Establishing new legal foundations and supporting consumers to exercise their rights

\$71.2 m

Strengthening system leadership, governance and accountability

\$24.1 m

Improving the quality and safety of services and promoting consumer rights

\$206.3 m

Enabling the mental health and wellbeing workforce to deliver a reformed system.

Overall investment will start:



A new agency led by and for people with lived experience.



8 new centres led by carers and family members with experience of the mental health system.



Greater access to legal and advocacy support for people who are at risk of involuntary treatment



A new Mental Health Improvement Unit to guide better safety practices in collaboration with people with lived experience.



Funding to expand and strengthen the mental health and wellbeing workforce

Leading research and innovation



The budget includes:

\$18.6 m

Facilitating translational research and its dissemination to support ongoing system improvement

\$2.5 m

A new approach to information management to facilitate better information-sharing for consumers.

Overall investment will start:



Funding the Collaborative Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing to ensure research delivers better treatments and services.



New standards and ways for services to collect and share mental health information with the input and consent of consumers.

Delivering service and capital planning and infrastructure



The budget includes:

\$20 m

A blueprint for Victoria's mental health and wellbeing system and capital planning new services

\$349.6 m

Asset funding for expanding and Improving bed-based Forensic Mental Health Services – Thomas Embling Hospital

\$10.9 m

Asset funding for five acute mental health beds in Warrnambool

\$141 m

Asset funding to expand mental health treatment options for Victoria's youth.

Overall investment will start:



A master plan to ensure the new mental health and wellbeing system meets the needs of Victorians now and into the future.



Funding to ensure the Thomas Embling Hospital can meet the needs of people who require a very high level of care, treatment and support.



First of 100 extra acute mental health beds to improve access for Victorians in need and ease pressure on hospital emergency departments.



More treatment options for young people aged 12-25 years for age-appropriate care, including home, community and hospital-based services.

Continued funding for safeguarding



The budget includes:

\$8.5 m

Support for regulators and complaints handling bodies

\$70.6 m

Victorian Fixated Threat Assessment Centre.

Overall investment will start:



Continued funding to manage demand and ensure there are safety arrangements to protect the most vulnerable members of the community.



Additional funding for the Mental Health Tribunal, Mental Health Complaints Commissioner.



A coordinated response through co-located police and mental health clinicians, to serious threats of violence posed by people with complex needs.

In summary

