

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

The Hon James Merlino MP

Deputy Premier, Minister for Mental Health



Funding overview

The 2020-21 Victorian Budget invests **\$868.6 million** in mental health services to provide clinical care and community support services to Victorians in need.

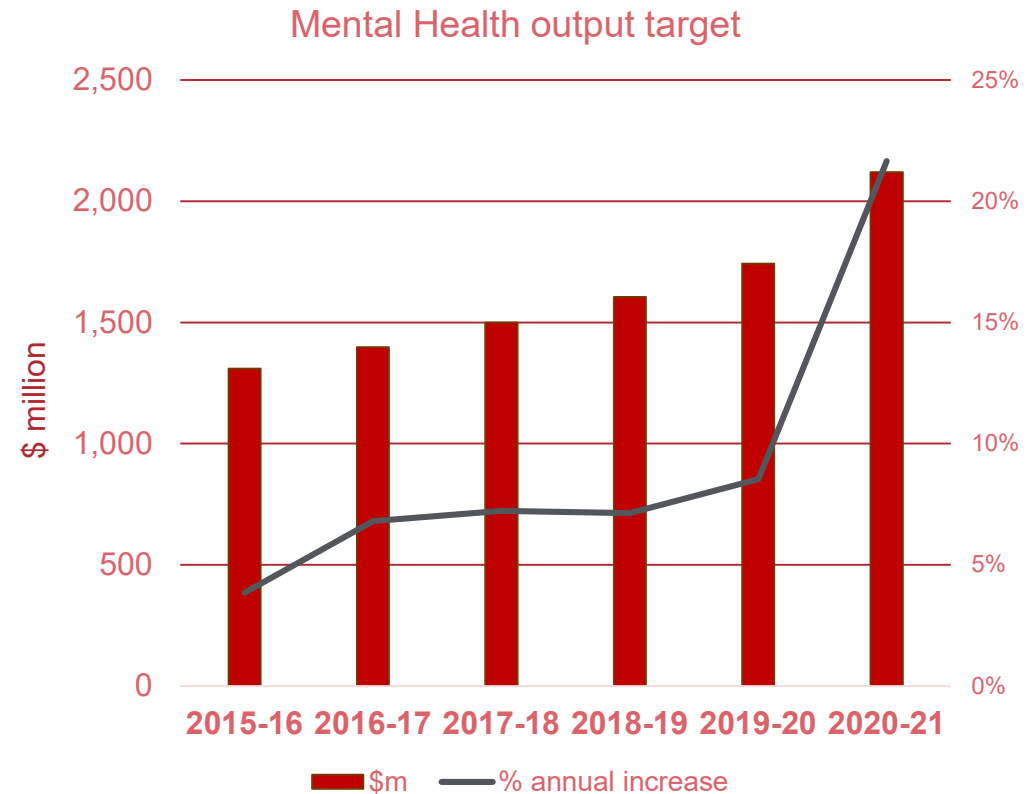


The funding responds to increased need arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and the interim recommendations of the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health Services.

Since it was elected six years ago, the Andrews Labor Government has invested an additional **\$2.48 billion** in mental health services.

Mental Health budget output growth

- In 2020-21, the Andrews Labor Government's total investment in mental health is investing **\$2.1 billion**.
- This investment constitutes a **21.7%** increase compared to 2019-20 and a **68.2%** increase compared to six years ago.



Andrews Labor Government investment in mental health

Directly responding to the COVID-19 pandemic


The Andrews Labor Government has provided \$152.5 million in output funding to provide mental health and wellbeing services in direct response to the COVID-19 pandemic.


This includes:


- **\$41.8 million** for a Mental Health and Social Connectedness package (Part of a \$59.4 million package announced in April 2020)
- **\$23.4 million** for a National Mental Health and Wellbeing Pandemic Response Plan announced in May 2020
- **\$6.3 million** for wellbeing checks and activating community supports for vulnerable Victorians announced in July 2020
- **\$59.7 million** to stabilise and reinforce mental health care capacity announced in August 2020
- **\$21.3 million** package for mental health and AoD non-government services from the risk of COVID-19 transmissions announced in September 2020


COVID-19 pandemic mental health initiatives


System response


 Expansion of online and phone counselling services through BeyondBlue, Lifeline, Kids Helpline and Suicide Line Victoria


 Funding for phones and extra data for vulnerable and high-risk clients of public mental health services.


 Funding to help veterans, seniors, new mums, Aboriginal Victorians, multicultural and faith groups, the LGBTIQ community, people with eating disorders and victims of family violence.

 Roll out of Orygen Youth Health eOrygen, a platform for young people to access moderated online therapy and peer support networks they would have otherwise waited six months to access.

 Extended operating hours for community mental health clinics (evenings and weekends) enabling COVID-19 safe face-to-face services for consumers who find it difficult to engage with telehealth services

 Funding for the 15 Melbourne-based headspace centres to collaborate on a coordinated approach for the care of young people in the community.

 Expansion of specialist mental health consultation and liaison teams enabling more mental health support hospital patients, as well as GPs and other primary health professionals to provide high-quality mental health care to people in the community

 **COVID Safe:** Funding for additional deep cleaning and sanitising following a COVID 19 positive event.

April 2020 \$59.4 M

May 2020 \$19.5M

August 2020 \$59.7M

October 2020 \$23.4M

3 New HOPE (suicide prevention) service funded

Commence fast track 179 acute mental health beds

Funding for 24 Hospital in the Home Beds – 15 at Orygen, to provide acute care at people's homes.

Critical workforce funding for junior medical staff psychiatry rotations and 60 new graduate mental health nurse placements.

Operational funding for Mental Health Reform Victoria to lead reform implementation and continue engagement

7 new HOPE sites funded creating statewide coverage

Funding to enable first phase rollout of 179 extra youth and adult mental health beds

Additional HOPE (suicide prevention) funding

Capital funding for early works on 120 acute mental health beds, as part of the 179 acute mental health beds expansion

Reform response

Responding to the Royal Commission Interim Report

The Andrews Labor Government is responding to the interim report, with new initiatives to deliver better services and fill in gaps in the mental health system.



This includes:

- **\$492.2 million** to deliver 120 mental health beds in Geelong, Epping, Sunshine and Melbourne (See next slide)
- **\$18.9 million** to deliver 35 new public beds in a private health service (See next slide)
- **\$8.7 million** to establish Victoria's first residential mental health service designed by people with lived experience.
- **\$4.4 million** to continue Aboriginal social and emotional wellbeing programs.
- **\$21.4 million** to expand suicide prevention and follow-up care for adults and to support a new child and youth program.
- **\$2.2 million** to set the foundations for a new Collaborative Centre for Mental Health & Wellbeing
- **\$16 million** to provide new training positions, education and opportunities for employment and promote and support lived experience workforces*
- **\$7.7 million** to grow our mental health clinical workforces*

• *These items are referenced in the workforce package on a latter slide*

179 Acute Mental Health Beds- investing in our future

The program is guided by safety, support, feasibility and alignment with the Royal Commission

120 new acute mental health beds

- 16 new beds at McKellar campus Geelong
- 52 new beds at Sunshine, Western Hospital
- 30 new beds at Epping, Northern Hospital
- 22 new beds at RMH, Melbourne

Codesign elements across all sites & health services

Family and Carer engagement

Streaming for need

Improved access to therapeutic space

Lived Experience workforce

De-escalation and restrictive practices

Integration with existing services

In addition

- **35 women's mental health beds** for public mental health patients in a private health service procured by end of 2021
- **24 Hospital in the Home** beds commencing by end of 2020



Saving lives through suicide prevention

HOPE - Hospital Outreach Post-suicidal Engagement services state-wide roll out

3 new sites commencing operations by end of 2020 at:

- Shepparton
- Bairnsdale
- Epping



7 further new sites commencing operations early in 2021 at:

- Broadmeadows
- Box Hill
- Clayton
- Heidelberg
- Mildura
- Warrnambool
- Parkville
- Additional clinical capacity at Albury Wodonga & Ballarat

- **Innovative new Child and Youth HOPE** program established by end of 2021 – with Alfred Health, Royal Childrens, Orygen and Monash Childrens
- **COVID-19 expansion** of phone and online counselling services:
 - BeyondBlue, Lifeline, Kids Helpline, and Suicide Line Victoria
 - Smiling Minds, Moderated Online Social Therapy (MOST Platform)



- **Expanded access** to HOPE service through enhanced eligibility criteria and extended service hours

Building our recovery workforce to support Victorians

The Recovery Workforce Package will increase support for frontline workers across mental health, family violence, health and child protection, create better pathways to roles in these vital sectors, and recruit to new positions.



Supporting over 280 new FTE from Covid-19 Mental Health Pandemic Response and Recovery Workforce Packages including Royal Commission reform implementation

The Andrews Labor Government has invested \$12.7 million to support pathways to employment in the mental health workforce through the workforce package. This includes:

- 38 students to work part time in mental health settings, with supervision, while completing their studies.
- 12 experienced nurses looking to transition to a career in mental health services, supported by supervisory roles.
- 10 new positions that will support more psychiatry trainees to complete child and adolescent psychiatry rotations.

The government's response to the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System Interim Report recommendations includes new positions to address workforce shortages and create new career opportunities:

- \$7.7m to increase the annual number of graduate nurses and postgraduate mental health scholarships
- \$16m to support Victorians with lived experience of mental illness use their personal expertise to improve our mental health system and develop career pathways .
- \$6.5m from the Covid-19 Mental Health Pandemic Response for Junior Medical Officer positions in psychiatry and graduate nurse positions

Saving lives and improving wellbeing

The Andrews Labor Government will continue to invest in the mental health system to meet people's needs



\$25.9 million to operationalise facilities to meet critical demand pressures.

- \$10.6 million funding for beds in the mental health system, including nine newly refitted beds at Box Hill Hospital.
- More than 13,300 specialist community service hours adult and aged cohorts

Youth Focus

- \$7 million for operational and innovation funding for Orygen
- Service expansion: and additional 5,700 service hours for child and youth cohorts



\$3.9 million to continue specialist asylum seeker programs to reduce destitution and vulnerability.

- responsiveness to the needs of people seeking asylum by Victorian-funded mainstream health and human services
- expand the provision of utilities assistance enabling access a payment that aligns with the value of Victorian utility concessions.



\$16.6 million to respond to threats of violence posed by people with complex needs, with coordinated and co-located police and mental health clinicians.

- specialist mental health and alcohol and drug treatment services.
- ancillary services that will improve public safety by increasing assessment and engagement of individuals with complex needs with appropriate services.



\$20 million for infrastructure and capital works in State-owned facilities to assist people with mental health, alcohol and other drug issues.

- critical in 2020-21 to enable services to upgrade infrastructure to ensure appropriate infection control in the wake of COVID-19.
- grants to ensure existing mental health and AOD infrastructure does not fall into disrepair and become non-compliant with contemporary building codes.

