



Mental health reform

The 2009-10 State Budget invests a total of \$182 million over four years for mental health initiatives including support service redevelopment and innovation initiatives to assist in achieving the vision and strategic directions outlined in the *Because Mental Health Matters: Victorian Mental Health Reform Strategy 2009-2019*.

This includes \$74 million in capital funding allocated to the development of new bed based services. The 2009-10 Budget initiatives have been selected to address priority pressures, risks and opportunities highlighted in the Strategy and build on preliminary investment made in the 2008-09 Budget. Funding for these measures commences with \$22.7 million in 2009-10.

Early in life: improving mental health outcomes for children, young people and their families - \$21.3 million over four years

The youth mental health redesign initiative (\$13.8 million over four years) will develop a more dedicated response across a broader range of conditions for young people up to 25 years. Early intervention outreach capacity for those with moderate problems will be developed and responses to young people with complex conditions will be significantly enhanced. This initiative will commence in four metropolitan sites over two years.

A new youth justice mental health initiative (\$2.9 million over four years, rolled out over two years) will provide clinical treatment and care coordination support to young people involved with youth justice services, including those transiting between custodial settings and the community.

New CAMHS in Schools Early Action teams (\$4.5 million over four years) will be established in one metropolitan and one rural region. Working in partnership with schools the teams will identify and treat children developing behavioural problems in the early primary school years.

Pathways to care: enhanced mental health triage - \$11.2 million over four years

Funding is provided to expand and centralise the 24 hour a day, seven day a week specialist mental health triage response at a total of six metropolitan and regional area mental health services over the next two years. The enhanced model will provide access to more timely expert assessment, and a stronger more proactive referral and follow up function.

Strengthening specialist support to people with high needs - \$21.3 million over four years

Funding is provided to create 10 new dedicated mental health forensic positions (\$6.4 million over four years) who will act as an expert resource for staff within specialist mental health services and other key services. This initiative will be complemented by new investment providing intensive integrated clinical and psychosocial rehabilitation support packages (\$14.9 million over four years) targeted to people who are on the waiting list for a Secure Extended Care Unit admission.

Building the foundations for recovery and participation for people with a mental illness – \$37.7 million over four years

To support recovery and address the entrenched social exclusion and disadvantage experienced by many people with a mental illness, a package of initiatives has been funded with three elements:

The care coordination initiative (\$8.3 million over four years) establishes new care coordinators to support up to 300 high-needs clients to access the range of health, community and social services they require. These positions will lead the coordinated development and monitoring of comprehensive integrated care plans and tailored support packages for targeted clients.

Funding is provided for up to 50 new intensive packages of flexible, scaled psychosocial rehabilitation support (\$15.6 million over four years) linked to a range of housing options for people with severe mental illness and psychiatric disability who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. These support packages will also support clients leaving bed based clinical rehabilitation services to live independently in the community.

A new mental health list (\$13.8 million over four years) in the Melbourne Magistrates' Court will be piloted to provide the criminal justice system with the capacity to proactively address the underlying causes of offending for people with a mental illness or other cognitive impairment, reduce the need for custodial sentences and improve outcomes for this group. This initiative will be funded and delivered through the Department of Justice.

Improving mental health outcomes for Aboriginal people - \$874,000 over four years

Funding is provided to commence work to develop a new metropolitan wide mental health service for Aboriginal people. This initiative will be undertaken as a collaborative partnership between the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service, the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO), local Aboriginal organisations and mental health services. Funding will also be provided to VACCHO to support workforce training and development.

Strengthening the mental health workforce and local mental health service system development - \$6.6 million over four years

A mental health workforce development and innovation institute (\$2.4 million over four years, rolled out over two years) will be established to support the specialist mental health services to address workforce shortages and service quality issues.

New time limited positions (\$4.2 million over four years) will be established to lead local service planning and coordination to actively promote local innovation and agency partnerships, and support the integration of clinical, psychosocial rehabilitation and primary health components of the mental health system.

Additional boosts to service capacity - \$9.1 million over four years

This funding will further boost service capacity, including the opening of acute inpatient beds at Maroondah Hospital.

Added investment in beds - \$74 million in new capital

\$8 million in capital funding has been allocated for two new Youth Prevention and Recovery Care services at Bendigo and Frankston and \$66 million in capital funding will be invested in a 120 bed mental health inpatient redevelopment at Dandenong Hospital and 30 new residential beds. In addition to this \$74 million package, a further eight mental health beds will be built as part of the \$30 million project at Geelong Hospital announced in the 2009-10 Budget.