



2008-09 State Budget Seeding Initiatives Update

The 2008/09 State Budget committed \$76.6m in new recurrent funding over the next 4 years for mental health reform seeding initiatives.

These initiatives were selected for early commencement as they address the most significant risks and gaps in the current system. The initiatives are now well underway and focus on:

- improving the way people access and are referred to mental health care and support
- redesigning and expanding services for children, young people and families
- developing new approaches to supporting people with mental health disorders in community housing.

Streamline access and referral pathways to mental health care and support (\$15.9m over 4 years)

To streamline access and referral pathways to mental health care and support, a 24/7 information, referral and advice service, targeted to the general public is being developed. This new service will direct people to the service that best meets their needs - such as general practice and other primary health care services, specialist psychiatric triage and emergency departments.

A procurement process has been initiated for a 24/7 mental health information, advice and referral line for callers from across Victoria, and has commenced some important focus-testing to ascertain what users of this service find most helpful. Implementation is on track to commence later in 2009.

Provisional funding allocations (totalling \$1.21m recurrent) for 24/7 Enhanced Mental Health Triage projects at selected AMHS have been made. Four area mental health services have been selected for these triage projects and funding has been provided to Southern Health.

Redesign and expand services for children, young people and families (\$16.8m over 4 years)

Children, young people and families will receive more responsive services through the Child and Youth service redesign initiative, which tests ways of effectively delivering age appropriate programs.

The major part of the service redesign funding is for two demonstration projects showcasing reform in the approach to children and young people's mental health. The selected projects were announced in March 2009. There will be one project in the Grampians Region and one in the Southern Metropolitan Region. The projects will demonstrate how a coalition of providers can plan and deliver an earlier, better integrated and more comprehensive service response to a broader range of children and young people in the 0-25 year age group who experience a mental health problem.

In addition, Service Development Grants totalling \$1.2 million have also been awarded to the ten consortia across Victoria. The one-off funding of \$120,000 for each site is provided to enable further planning and partnership development between services that work with vulnerable children and youth.



Victorian Mental Health Reform Strategy 2009-19

Enhanced family support is being provided for vulnerable families and at risk children where a parent has a mental illness. This is occurring through expansion and broadening of the Families where a Parent has a Mental Illness (FaPMI) strategy to include parents with a drug and alcohol problem and delivery of support in partnership with Child First agencies. A FaPMI worker has now been placed in each of the DHS Regions.

New approaches to supporting people with mental health disorders in community housing (\$8.7m over 4 years)

People with mental health disorders will be better supported to live in the community through a trial to provide intensive on-site support to assist people achieve stability in accommodation.

The model will be established through the development of an accommodation complex for more than 100 people, around half of which will be provided with intensive flexible on site support. Steps have been taken to fast track the town planning aspects of this Elizabeth St proposal with residents expected to move into the complex in late 2010.

Planning to expand the capacity of the psychiatric disability sector to support people to live in various types of independent housing has also begun. This will include the rural expansion of the Integrated Recovery and Care Rehabilitation Program (IRRCRP), which supports the transition of long stay consumers of clinical mental health bed based services into the community.

Increased perinatal supports (\$7.015 million over 5 years)

This initiative will enable a comprehensive statewide approach to identification of, and responses to, mental health problems among parents as part of a new national program. Improvement in care pathways and workforce training is underway with the expected implementation of the National Research Council Perinatal Mental Health screening guidelines in 2010.

Additional Prevention and Recovery Care (PARC) services (\$28.7m over 4 years)

Funding has been provided for additional Prevention and Recovery Care (PARC) services, reinforcing Victoria's position as the leading state in providing alternatives to inpatient treatment. This is in conjunction with capital funding of \$10.4m to provide 30 new beds in three new community-based facilities affiliated with Maroondah, Monash Medical Centre and Peninsula hospitals, completing the 2006 Government commitment to the development of 70 new PARC beds in Victoria.