

2021–22 Federal Budget

Initiatives for people with complex and enduring mental illness

More than 690,000 Australians live with complex and enduring mental illness such as psychotic illnesses, personality disorders, bipolar disorder or severe and persistent depression and anxiety. People living with complex and enduring mental illness can experience a range of poorer health and social outcomes which can be driven by stigma and discrimination from the broader community.

We encourage you to read the full mental health and suicide prevention budget available on our website to understand the following information in context.

Key budget initiatives for people with complex and enduring mental illness:

- **\$171.3 million** to ensure continued access to Commonwealth psychosocial support services for 2 years, from 2021–22, under a single consolidated program.
- **\$11.1 million** to improve the experience of and outcomes for people with complex mental health needs, including cognitive disability and autism, through a range of targeted initiatives. This includes:
 - funding for SANE Australia to pilot specialised mental health services and interventions for people with complex mental health needs,
 - additional training and education for the mental health workforce to better meet the needs of people with cognitive disability and autism.

*72% of people living with complex mental illness... said that stigma about mental health issues had led to them avoiding important opportunities for connection such as socialising, making new friends, dating and having intimate relationships. 43% said they had been most affected by stigma in their workplace.**

Some of the key Budget initiatives for everyone:

- **\$487.2 million** to deliver critical community-based multidisciplinary, coordinated care for adults experiencing mental ill-health, including Head to Health adult mental health treatment centres to improve access to community-based mental health services.
- **\$158.6 million** for universal suicide aftercare services to all Australians discharged from hospital, and piloting of broader referral pathways to anyone who has attempted suicide or experienced suicidal distress that may not have presented to a hospital.



- **\$117.2 million** to establish a comprehensive evidence base to support real time monitoring and data collection for Australia's mental health and suicide prevention systems.
- **\$111.2 million** to create a world-class digital mental health service system, including:
 - Commencement of the transformation of the existing Head to Health gateway into a comprehensive national mental health platform providing greater access to high quality, free and low cost digital mental health services and treatment.
 - Providing support to existing digital mental health services, including to manage the continuing increased demand due to the COVID-19 pandemic and 2019-20 summer bushfires.
- **\$58.8 million** for growing and upskilling the mental health workforce, including:
 - Boosting the psychiatrist workforce by increasing the number of training places available, including in regional and remote areas
 - Increasing the number of nurses, psychologists and allied health practitioners working in mental health settings through 280 scholarships and 350 clinical placements
 - Sponsoring up to 390 peer workers to undertake vocational training
 - Reducing the stigma associated with mental health among health practitioners, and promote mental health as a preferred career option
 - Supporting greater representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the mental health workforce through additional mental health-specific scholarships
 - Providing training to support healthcare workers to deliver culturally safe care
 - Continuing mental health training for practitioners working in aged care and supporting professional collaboration through the Mental Health Professionals' Network.

The Government is also leading work with state and territory governments, through the National Agreement on Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, to achieve stronger governance structures and clearer roles and responsibilities to support a more connected and accountable mental health and suicide prevention system.

National FREE 24/7 Crisis Services

[Lifeline](#) | 13 11 14

[Suicide Call Back Service](#) | 1300 659 467

[Kids Helpline](#) | 1800 55 1800

[Coronavirus Mental Wellbeing Support Service](#) | 1800 512 348

[Beyond Blue](#) | 1300 22 4636

<https://headtohealth.gov.au/>



Australian Government

National Mental Health Commission