

# 2021–22 Federal Budget

## *Mental health initiatives for members of the LGBTIQ+ community*

Although many lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer and gender diverse (LGBTIQ+) people live healthy and happy lives, research has demonstrated that a disproportionate number experience poorer mental health outcomes and have higher risk of suicidal behaviours than their peers. Evidence shows that the discrimination and marginalisation experienced by LGBTIQ+ people increases the risk of developing mental health issues, and also creates barriers to accessing supportive services.

All services need to be inclusive, respectful and supportive of every Australian.

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

### **Key Budget initiatives for the LGBTIQ+ community:**

**\$12 million** to maintain support to the former National Suicide Prevention Trial sites to continue delivery of local suicide prevention initiatives across Australia. Commencing in 2016, the Trial funded Public Health Networks to develop and implement a local, systems-based approach to suicide prevention for at-risk populations (including LGBTIQ+ communities) in 12 regions across Australia with high rates of suicide.

**73.2% of LGBTIQ people aged 18 and over reported having ever been diagnosed with a mental health condition; 51.9% reported being diagnosed or treated for a mental health condition in the past 12 months<sup>1</sup>.**

### **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.
- **\$111.2 million** to create a world-class digital mental health service system. This includes:
  - **\$11.6 million** to commence the transformation of the existing Head to Health gateway into a comprehensive national mental health platform. This will provide Australians with greater choice and access to high quality, free and low cost digital mental health services and treatment.



- **\$158.6 million** for universal suicide aftercare services to all Australians discharged from hospital and pilot 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.
- **\$58.8 million** for growing and upskilling the mental health workforce, critical measures include:
  - **\$11 million** to boost the psychiatrist workforce by increasing the number of training places available, including in regional and remote areas,
  - **\$27.8 million** to increase the number of nurses, psychologists and allied health practitioners working in mental health settings through 280 scholarships and 350 clinical placements,
  - **\$3.1 million** to sponsor up to 390 peer workers to undertake vocational training,
  - **\$1 million** to reduce the stigma associated with mental health among health practitioners, and promote mental health as a preferred career option,
  - **\$8.3 million** to support greater representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the mental health workforce through additional mental health-specific scholarships and provide training to support healthcare workers to deliver culturally safe care,
  - **\$2.4 million** to continue mental health training for practitioners working in aged care and support professional collaboration through the Mental Health Professionals' Network.

## 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



**Australian Government**  

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**National Mental Health Commission**