



Stabilising and Reinforcing Mental Health Care Capacity Funding Package

Overview of initiatives

Preamble

The Victorian Government is funding a \$59.7m package for clinical mental health services to meet immediate surge demands resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and to fast-track critical recommendations from the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System Interim Report.

This investment builds on the \$59.4m Mental Health and Wellbeing Coronavirus Response Package announced in April 2020 and the \$19.5m in funding committed in May 2020 for the delivery of essential reforms recommended by the Royal Commission.

This document provides an overview of the initiatives to be provided under this funding package.

Overview

| Provider | Description | Contact details |
|--|---|--|
| Public hospital (clinical) mental health services | Community mental health clinics will extend their operating hours (to evenings and weekends) so that more COVID-19 safe face-to-face services can be provided for consumers who find it difficult to engage with telehealth services. | Information on the locations of Victoria's clinical mental health services is available at: http://www.health.vic.gov.au/mentalhealthservices/ |
| | Specialist mental health consultation and liaison teams will be expanded so that more mental health support can be provided to hospital patients in general medical and surgical wards. These teams will also support GPs and other primary health professionals to provide high-quality mental health care to people in the community. | |
| | Specialist mental health assessment and triage teams will provide more outreach assessment and early intervention services to help keep people safe in the community and out of hospital. | |
| | More allied health and medical services will be provided in hospital mental health inpatient units on weekends. | |
| Mental Health Reform Victoria (MHRV) and public hospital (clinical) mental health services | The Hospital Outreach Post-suicidal Engagement (HOPE) program, which offers follow-up care and support for people after a suicide attempt, is currently available in 12 locations across Victoria. Work commenced in April to expand HOPE to three new sites at Goulburn Valley Health (Shepparton), Northern Health (Epping) and Bairnsdale Regional Health Service. MHRV will immediately commence | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | working on the implementation of the HOPE program at seven additional hospitals: The Royal Melbourne, Monash Medical Centre, the Austin, Box Hill (Eastern Health), Broadmeadows (Northern Health), Mildura Base Hospital and Southwest Healthcare in Warrnambool. | |
| | MHRV will fast-track designs for the capital works required for the introduction of 135 new youth and adult acute mental health beds. | |
| Victorian Mental Illness Awareness Council (VMIAC) | VMIAC will increase their workforce so they can provide more support through the CHECK-IN program for people with lived experience of mental illness who are finding the COVID-19 pandemic situation difficult. | CHECK-IN (03) 9380 3915 Mon-Fri 9am-5pm |
| Tandem | Tandem will increase their workforce so they can provide more support through the Tandem support and Referral Line for family members or friends of people living with mental health challenges Additional funding will also be provided for the Mental Health Carer Support Fund, which assists people in their support role, helps to promote and sustain the carer and consumer relationship, and improves the wellbeing of families and members of the community performing this role. | Tandem Support and Referral Line 1800 314 325 Mon-Fri 9am-5pm |
| Nursing and Midwifery Health Program Victoria (NMHPV) | The NMHPV will provide increased support services for nurses, midwives and nursing and midwifery students experiencing mental health issues or substance abuse concerns. | NMHPV support line (03) 9415 7551 |
| headspace | The 15 Melbourne-based headspace centres will collaborate on a coordinated approach for the care of young people in the community who are finding it difficult to engage with telehealth services. This coordinated approach will include partnerships with clinical mental health services and schools. | |
| Phoenix Australia | Phoenix Australia, the experts in trauma-related mental health and wellbeing, will work with industrial bodies and employer workforce wellbeing teams to bolster Employee Assistance Programs with specific initiatives designed to support police, paramedics and nurses through the COVID-19 pandemic. | |
| Ambulance Victoria | Mental health clinicians will be seconded from an area mental health service to Ambulance Victoria, where they will provide mental health consultation services to help paramedics assess and care for people experiencing mental health issues in the community. | |

Further Information

For further information please contact:

Shane Quinn
Acting Director, Programs and Performance
Mental Health and Drugs
Department of Health and Human Services

shane.quinn@dhhs.vic.gov.au

OFFICIAL