
AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT BUDGET 2022-23

SUMMARY



The Treasurer, the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP, handed down the 2022-23 Australian Government Budget on 29 March 2022.

The Treasurer's speech and the budget papers heavily reference the \$2.3 billion investment previously made into mental health and suicide prevention in the 2021-22 budget.

The new funding allocated in the 2022-23 budget to mental health and suicide prevention is \$547 million over five (5) years and will be spent on delivery of Stage 2 reforms through the five (5) pillars of the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan.

It is noted that funding for the mental health measures has already been partially provided for by the Government. Previously unannounced commitments in the 2021-22 MYEFO statement appear to be announced measures in this budget and a number of long-established mental health programs and initiatives due to have their funding 'rolled over' in 2022 are also described in the new investments.

Orygen welcomes the additional investment, in particular the longer-term commitment to existing service for young people with early psychosis and the funding to establish this service in the ACT and Tasmania.

However, there are still many young people around Australia experiencing early psychosis who do not have access to these services and thousands more young people with other more serious and complex mental health issues who cannot access the level of care they need, when they need it. In the lead up to the election we urge the government and the opposition to commit to significant additional investment for these young people who continue to fall through the missing middle in the system.

SPECIFIC YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH MEASURES

- \$206.5 million over 3 years from 2022-23 to ensure continued access to services for young Australians with severe mental illness. This funding is included in *Pillar 3: Mental Health Treatment Initiatives* and will be utilised to:
 - extend the lapsing Early Psychosis Youth Service (EPYS) sites to 30 June 2025,
 - establish two new EPYS sites in Tasmania and ACT,
 - extend Orygen's role supporting EPYS and Youth Enhanced Services to 30 June 2025,
 - extend Orygen National Centre of Excellence funding by a further two years to 30 June 2025, and
 - extends headspace national funding for data management and support for EPYS.
- \$9.7 million over 3 years from 2022-23 for nationally consistent mechanisms to better manage mental health and wellbeing concerns in schools, including a national measure of student wellbeing, national guidelines for the accreditation of mental health and wellbeing programs and trauma informed professional development support for teachers (*Pillar 1: Prevention and Early Intervention*).

REVOLUTION IN MIND

- \$3.3 million over 2 years from 2021-22 to fund the delivery of best-practice early intervention and prevention mentoring programs for 'at risk' Year 8 students at public secondary schools (*Pillar 1*).
- \$1.8 million over 2 years from 2022-23 to continue a mental health literacy app to assist Australian parents and carers to identify the signs of social or emotional problems in children (*Pillar 1*).
- \$1.6 million over 4 years from 2022-23 to continue funding for youth mental health services on the Mornington Peninsula (*Pillar 1*).
- \$14.8 million over 5 years from 2021-22 to continue a range of headspace programs including flying headspace, the Digital Work and Study Service, and schools suicide prevention activities (*Pillar 3*).
- \$0.4 million over 2 years from 2022-23 to deliver a stigma reduction program for secondary and tertiary students to encourage students to choose a career in mental health (*Pillar 5: Governance and Workforce*).
- \$4.2 million over 5 years from 2021-22 to support employment of general practitioners in headspace centres in rural and remote regions (*Pillar 5*).

OTHER MENTAL HEALTH MEASURES

Pillar 1: Prevention and Early Intervention Activities (\$76.4 million)

- \$52.3 million over 4 years from 2022-23 for Lifeline to provide mental health supports
- \$3.9 million over 3 years from 2022-23 for innovative, evidence-based mental health and suicide prevention research activities.

Pillar 2: Suicide Prevention Activities (\$46.7 million over 2 years from 2022-23)

- \$42.7 million over 2 years from 2022-23 to extend targeted regional initiatives to prevent suicide across Australia through more coordinated, but locally specific, efforts at the regional level
- \$4.0 million over 2 years from 2022-23 for suicide prevention research.

Pillar 3: Mental Health Treatment Initiatives (\$285.5 million over 5 years from 2021-22)

- \$24.3 million over 4 years from 2022-23 to implement a pilot program to identify innovative and evidence-based models of care to best address the needs of people with eating disorders and to continue funding current eating disorder services for 2022-23
- \$15.1 million over 4 years from 2022-23 to introduce a case conferencing item on the Medicare Benefits Schedule to support eligible patients to access coordinated, multidisciplinary mental health care
- \$13.6 million over 2 years from 2021-22 to continue funding for the Victorian head-to-help clinics until February 2023 and extend NSW pop-up clinics until December 2022
- \$11.3 million in 2022-23 to continue to provide COVID-19 support through digital mental health services.

Pillar 4: Support for Vulnerable Australians (\$44.9 million over 4 years from 2021-22)

- \$17.8 million over 2 years from 2022-23 to provide mental health support to multicultural communities across Australia, including further funding for the Program of Assistance for

Survivors of Torture and Trauma and to provide access to translating and interpreting services for people accessing mental health services

- \$8.6 million over 3 years from 2022-23 to establish the National Closing the Gap Policy Partnership on Social and Emotional Wellbeing to advise on policy and implementation of actions to address social and emotional wellbeing, mental health and suicide prevention closing the gap targets
- \$8.5 million over 3 years from 2022-23 to extend culturally appropriate programs in 16 communities across the Northern Territory through the Red Dust program, focused on social and emotional wellbeing, sexual health, relationships, alcohol and other drugs, and Foetal Spectrum Disorder
- \$8.3 million in 2021-22 to establish a National Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Centre, to be the national hub of clinical and technical expertise in treatment for trauma-related mental health conditions
- \$0.9 million in 2021-22 to extend Medicare Benefits Schedule items for Australians impacted by the 2019-20 bushfires
- \$0.8 million over 2 years from 2021-22 to provide mental health supports to the Devonport community in Tasmania following the tragedy at Hillcrest Primary School.

Pillar 5: Workforce and Governance Issues (\$93.2 million over 5 years from 2021-22)

- \$64.7 million over 5 years from 2021-22 to implement the first stages of the 10-year mental health workforce strategy, including:
 - \$28.6 million over 3 years from 2023-24 to increase the size of the psychiatry workforce through training posts, funding for supervisors, specific rural and remote initiatives and recruitment
 - \$18.3 million over 3 years from 2022-23 for a national mental health 'pathways to practice' program for nursing, allied health and psychology students
 - \$6.2 million over 3 years from 2021-22 to support the mental health of health workers
 - \$4.7 million over 3 years from 2022-23 to provide general practitioners with access to psychiatrist support for treating their patients
 - \$1.3 million over 2 years from 2023-24 to build the capacity of mental health workers to respond to people with both substance use and mental health conditions
- \$3.5 million over 4 years from 2022-23 for the Australian Public Service (APS) Commission to continue the operation of the APS Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Unit to implement and maintain a mental health framework for APS employees.

MEDICAL RESEARCH

Through this budget the Australian Government released the second Ten-Year Investment Plan for the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) and increased this fund in the 2022-23 budget by \$1.3 billion bringing the total to \$6.3 billion to deliver on the plan.

The MRFF Ten-Year Plan will provide research funding across the following themes:

- \$2.1 billion over 10 years from 2022-23, representing a further \$604.8 million, for medical translation to support medical discoveries become part of medical practice

- \$1.5 billion over 10 years from 2022-23, representing a further \$114.9 million, for medical research to help researchers tackle significant challenges through investment, leadership and collaboration
- \$1.4 billion over 10 years from 2022-23, representing a further \$117.4 million, to support patients by funding innovative treatments, supporting clinical trials, and delivering more advanced health care and medical technology
- \$1.3 billion over 10 years from 2022-23, representing a further \$495.4 million, for medical researchers to make breakthrough discoveries, develop their skills and progress their careers in Australia
- New funding of \$384.2 million to support Australia's upcoming early to midcareer researchers, to keep them within the sector and working on our greatest health challenges.

Included in the new MRFF projects is \$2.3 million for validating cognitive screening for first-episode psychosis – CogScreen. The project is led by Orygen researcher Associate Professor Kelly Allott and will establish the most accurate cognitive screening tool for patients attending Australian early psychosis services.

OTHER BUDGET MEASURES IMPACTING YOUNG PEOPLE

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- \$79.6 million over 3 years from 2022-23 for Sporting Schools to continue the program until 31 December 2024 to assist Australian children of all abilities to be more physically active and to establish lifelong healthy behaviours.
- \$9.7 million over 3 years from 2022-23 for nationally consistent mechanisms to better manage mental health and wellbeing concerns in schools, including a national measure of student wellbeing, national guidelines for the accreditation of mental health and wellbeing programs and trauma informed professional development support for teachers
- \$99.3 million over 4 years from 2022-23 to fund an increase in the number of medical students studying in rural and remote locations
- \$36.2 million over 4 years from 2022-23 to fund two new University Departments of Rural Health in the South West and Goldfields regions of Western Australia to support rural medical training

EMPLOYMENT

- \$52.8 million over 5 years from 2021-22 to deliver the new ReBoot initiative and support Workforce Australia to support up to 5,000 disadvantaged young Australians to develop employability skills, providing a pathway to employment services and training opportunities.
- \$1.3 billion over 5 years from 2021-22 to support employers to engage and retain new apprentices, and reform the Australian Apprenticeships system to sustain a skilled and responsive workforce. This funding includes \$954.0 million over 5 years from 2021-22 to introduce a new Australian Apprenticeships Incentive System from 1 July 2022, providing support to employers and apprentices in priority occupations.
- \$365.3 million to extend the Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements and Completing Apprenticeship Commencements wage subsidies by 3 months to 30 June 2022, to further support employers taking on and retaining new apprentices.

- \$2.8 million in 2022-23 to increase apprenticeship In-Training Support by an additional 2,500 places for young Australians aged 15-20 years.

YOUTH JUSTICE

- \$2.0 million over 2 years from 2022-23 for the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia to expand the Youth Engagement Program as part of the Kimberley Juvenile Justice Project in the Kimberley and Pilbara region. The Youth Engagement Program provides case management, mentoring, court support and advocacy services to help young Aboriginal people to comply with bail conditions and court orders.

IMMIGRATION

- \$9.2 million in 2022-23 to extend existing Youth Transition Support services for 12 months to 30 June 2023, to continue the provision of services to young humanitarian entrants and vulnerable migrants to increase engagement in education and community sport and assist in transition to employment.