



Budget Summary

2018 FEDERAL BUDGET

8 May 2018



Mentally healthy people,
Mentally healthy communities

Mental Health Measures

The Government has provided \$338.1 million for mental health across ten measures.

Better Ageing

The Government will provide funding of \$82.5 million over four years from 2018-19 for mental health services for people in residential aged care facilities.

The Government will provide \$20.0 million over four years from 2018-19 for a pilot of services led by mental health nurses to target the mental health of older Australians in the community, particularly those at risk from isolation.

Aftercare following a suicide attempt

Expense (\$m)	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Department of Health	-	6.5	8.5	10.6	12.1

The Government will provide \$37.6 million over four years from 2018-19 to improve follow-up care for people discharged from hospital following a suicide attempt – the highest at risk group in Australia – including:

- \$10.5 million for *beyondblue* to provide national support and oversee the implementation of the Way Back Support Service (WBSS) in Primary Health Networks; and
- \$27.1 million for Primary Health Networks to commission services to be accessed by WBSS clients (contingent on co-contributions from States and Territories).

Royal Flying Doctor Service

Under A Stronger Rural Health Strategy the Royal Flying Doctor Service will receive \$20.4 million to improve the delivery and availability of mental health services in rural and remote areas.

Lifeline Australia – enhanced telephone crisis services

Expense (\$m)	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Department of Health	-	6.1	6.1	6.1	15.5



The Government will provide \$33.8 million over four years from 2018-19 (including \$15.5 million ongoing) to Lifeline Australia to enhance its telephone crisis services. This will enable Lifeline Australia to meet increasing demand, provide more responsive and consistent services and improve connectivity to other services in order to better support people in need. These improvements will be delivered through modernisation of the operating environment and expansion of workforce capacity. This measure will ensure that Australians experiencing a personal crisis will have 24 hour access to high quality crisis support and suicide prevention services.

Strengthening the National Mental Health Commission

Expense (\$m)	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
National Mental Health Commission	-	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>					
<i>National Mental Health Commission</i>	-	0.2	-	-	0.2

The Government will provide \$12.4 million over four years from 2018-19 to strengthen the National Mental Health Commission. This additional funding will support the Commission to better review and report on the performance of the mental health system in Australia and increase its capacity to provide national leadership in advising on mental health reforms, including expanding its role under the *Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan*.

Suicide prevention campaign

Expense (\$m)	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Department of Health	-	1.2	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$1.2 million in 2018-19 to SANE Australia to deliver a targeted suicide awareness campaign, *Better Off With You*. The campaign will utilise personal stories of individuals who have survived suicide attempts to change the attitudes and behaviours of people contemplating suicide.

Mental Health Research

The Government will allocate \$125.0 million over 10 years from 2017-18 from the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) for a Million Minds Mental Health Research Mission to support priorities under the *Fifth Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan*.



Head to Health

Expense (\$m)	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Department of Health	-	2.1	2.7	-	-

The Government will provide \$4.7 million over two years from 2018-19 for *Head to Health* which will provide users with access to evidence-based information and advice on mental health services through an improved telephone service and enhanced web portal.

Funding for the Junction Clubhouse

Expense (\$m)	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Department of Health	-	0.3	0.3	-	-

The Government will provide \$0.5 million over two years from 2018-19 to The Junction Clubhouse Cairns. This funding will enable the Clubhouse to continue to support people with long-term mental health issues in a structured environment and to provide access and support for mentoring and life skills development. The funding is contingent on co-contributions from the Queensland Government.

Social services measures

National Disability Insurance Scheme — continuity of support

Expense (\$m)	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Department of Social Services	3.4	13.8	-4.1	-6.4	-8.7
Department of Health	-	0.1	29.8	31.0	30.6
Department of Human Services	-	-	2.2	-0.4	0.9
Department of Finance	-	-	-
Total — Expense	3.4	13.9	27.9	24.3	22.9
<i>Related revenue (\$m)</i>					
<i>Department of Finance</i>	..	-0.2	-0.1	-	-

The Government will provide an additional \$92.1 million over five years from 2017-18 to ensure continuity of support for people who are not eligible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), but are currently receiving support under programs that are transitioning to the NDIS.

This reaffirms the Government's commitment to provide continuity of support to people with a disability and to ensure that they are not disadvantaged by the transition to the NDIS. Under the new continuity of support arrangements, eligible recipients will receive a level of support that is consistent with that which they currently receive. The Government will also provide:



- \$0.5 million in 2018-19 to undertake stakeholder consultations and develop a new model for supported employment, enabling a smooth transition to the NDIS and ensuring that the new model is consistent with NDIS principles; and
- Additional funding to support disability advocacy organisations, and ensure that people with a disability continue to have access to effective advocacy services as the NDIS enters full scheme. Funding for this element has already been included in the forward estimates.

We are yet to clarify what this measure means in practice for participants or providers. We will continue our investigations and provide more information as soon as it comes to hand.

National Disability Insurance Scheme Jobs and Market Fund

Expense (\$m)	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Department of Social Services	0.1	24.3	22.9	17.1	-
Department of Finance	-	-	-
Total — Expense	0.1	24.3	22.9	17.1	-
<i>Related revenue (\$m)</i>					
<i>Department of Finance</i>	-	-0.3	-0.1	-	-

The Government will provide \$64.3 million over four years from 2017-18 to support the ongoing implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) by establishing a NDIS Jobs and Market Fund (the Fund) which will invest in targeted initiatives to promote the development of the market for the NDIS workforce. The Fund will develop resources to assist disability service providers to take advantage of NDIS opportunities, including provider toolkits, good practice guides and service coordination platforms.

Integrated Carer Support Services

The Government will provide \$113.3 million over five years from 2017-18 for a new Integrated Carer Support Services model to provide a range of early intervention and preventative services for carers. This new approach is expected to lead to better longer-term outcomes and improved well-being for carers compared to the current costly and reactive crisis interventions.

The new Integrated Carer Support Services model will consolidate a range of new and existing carer services into a nationally consistent service delivery model. The Government's Carer Gateway will be the entry point for carers and provide a range of services including peer support, counselling, coaching and access to educational resources. At a local level, a network of Regional Delivery Partners will help carers to access local services such as needs assessment, information and advice, targeted financial support and crisis support where required.

To provide the additional funding for Integrated Carer Support Services, the Government will introduce a \$250,000 income test threshold for the Carer Allowance payment. This will ensure that the payment is targeted to those carers most in need.



Note that this measure was announced in March and has no impact on Budget estimates.

Other measures of interest

Homelessness

The new National Housing and Homelessness Agreement will commence from 1 July 2018. This agreement will provide \$7 billion in housing funding and an additional \$620 million for homelessness services over the next five years, ensuring that funding for homelessness services will be ongoing and indexed.

Maternal Health

\$17.5 million over four years from 2017-18 will be allocated from the Medical Research Future Fund for research into Women’s Health and research into Maternal Health and First 2,000 Days to address the underlying social determinants of health that impact on a child’s early days of life.

Financial relief for veterans with mental health conditions

The Veteran Payment is designed to provide immediate short-term financial assistance to vulnerable people who may be experiencing financial difficulty while their claims for a mental health condition are being assessed. From 1 May 2018 supplementary amounts (such as pension supplement, rent assistance and remote area allowance) of Veteran Payment paid to a veteran, and full payments (including the supplementary component) made to the spouse or partner of a veteran who dies, are exempt from income tax. The new Veteran Payment was introduced in response to the recommendations of the Senate Inquiry Report *The Constant Battle: Suicide by Veterans*.

Mental Health Treatment for Australian Defence Force Reservists

The Government will provide an additional \$2.2 million over four years from 2018-19 to extend access to mental health services, provided to current and former Australian Defence Force (ADF) members on a non-liability basis, to include ADF reservists with part-time disaster relief and border protection service, or who have been involved in a serious training accident.

Enhanced Support for 1800RESPECT

Expense (\$m)	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Department of Social Services	-	7.4	4.1	-	-

The Government will provide \$11.5 million over two years from 2018-19 to enhance the capacity of 1800RESPECT. The additional support will allow trauma specialist counsellors to respond to the growing demand for its services and continue to provide a responsive, high quality service to support women and families affected by family and domestic violence. 1800RESPECT is a part of the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022* which targets all forms of violence against women.

This measure builds on the 2016-17 Budget measure titled *Domestic and Family Violence – new initiatives to break the cycle of violence*.



Mental Health Australia



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mentally healthy communities

Mental Health Australia is the peak independent, national representative body of the mental health sector in Australia.

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