

# 2025-26 Victorian State Budget Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

**Ingrid Stitt MP**  
Minister for Mental Health



Department  
of Health

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# Budget Overview

We are continuing to deliver a reformed mental health and wellbeing system that reflects the vision laid out by the Royal Commission, with a focus on strengthening frontline services that Victorians use every day.

- **\$544.4 million** invested to support Victoria's mental health and wellbeing system
- **\$55.2 million** invested in alcohol and drug services



# Achievements in the past year

In the past year we have made significant progress towards a reformed mental health and wellbeing and AOD system:

-  **15 Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals** have supported over **21,000 Victorians**
-  Launched the **Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals Graduate and Early Career Program**
-  **49 scholarships** were awarded to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples studying a mental health related discipline to grow and upskill the workforce
-  Introduced **activity-based funding** for bed-based services
-  Successfully launched **Victoria's first mobile pill testing service**
-  Delivered the pharmacotherapy grants program, expanded wraparound and outreach services and appointed a Chief Addiction Medicine Adviser as part of the **Statewide Action Plan.**
-  Opened Victoria's first dedicated **residential eating disorders treatment centre**
-  Completed **11 intensive care area refurbishments** to improve safety for vulnerable consumers.
-  Continued **Hospital in the Home (HITH) beds** for adults and young people
-  Released the *Next Phase of Reform* strategy

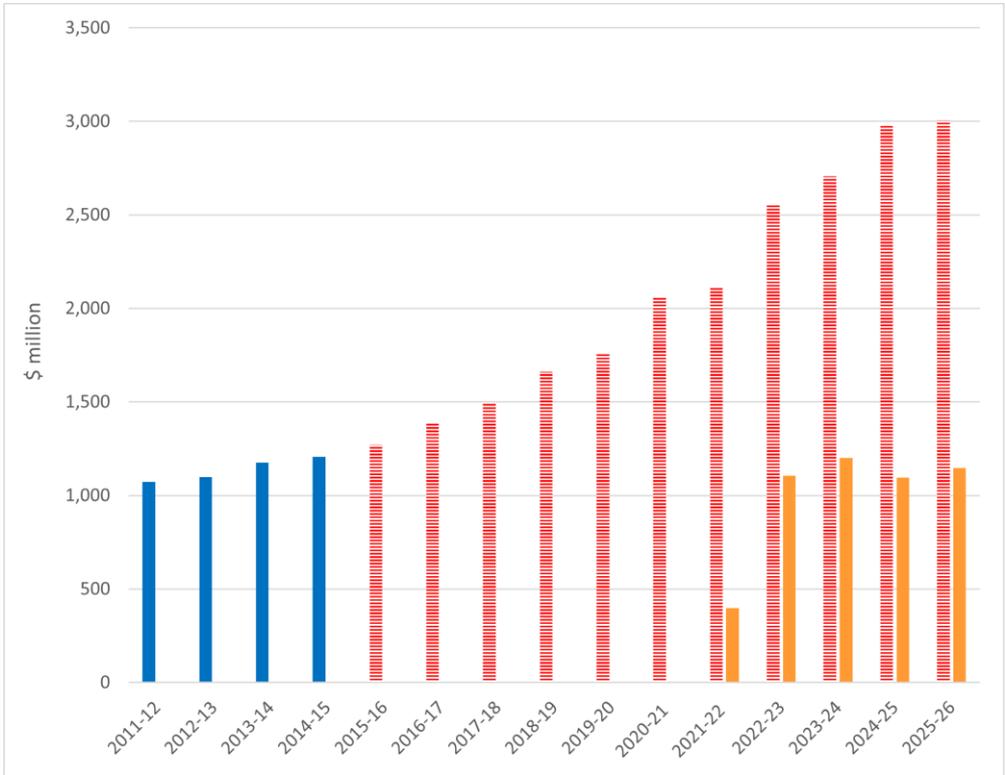
# Mental Health and Wellbeing Levy

Introduced in 2021-22, the Mental Health and Wellbeing Levy provides dedicated funding to Victoria's mental health and wellbeing system.

The levy has supported:

- New services and beds
- Workforce expansion
- Establishment of Local Mental Health and Wellbeing services
- Suicide prevention and response activities

**The levy is projected to raise \$1.147 billion in 2025-26.**



\*Victorian Budget Papers, 2011-12 to 2025-26  
Victoria Annual Financial Reports 2021-22 to 2023-24

\* Mental Health Output      Mental Health Levy

# Investing in Acute Care

**\$308.9 million over 4 years** and **\$76.8 million** ongoing to support:



**82 acute adult inpatient mental health beds** across Western Health and Northern Health



Opening **three newly constructed Youth Prevention and Recovery Care (YPARC)** services in regional Victoria



**Hospitals in the Home (HITH) beds** at Parkville and Barwon to provide community-based care that avoids hospitalisation



**Mental Health and AOD Emergency Department Hubs** across Monash Health, St Vincent's Health, Western Health, Melbourne Health and Barwon Health

# Supporting community mental health

**\$48.4 million** in early intervention to support Victorians to be well, better connected and out of crisis.

This investment will maintain programs such as:

- Rainbow Door
- Social Inclusion Action Groups
- Koori Mental Health Liaison Officers
- CARES4ME
- Perinatal Emotional Health Program
- Phoenix's Responder Assist, and
- Asylum Seeker supports

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# Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals

- **15 Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals** are now supporting adults over 26 years in metropolitan, regional and rural communities.
- **\$34.4 million** to support the **15 existing sites and establish seven new locations** across Victoria.

Over **21,000 Victorians** have been supported.



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# Children and young people

**\$28.3 million** for mental health and wellbeing supports for children and young people, including:

- Establishment of the **Parkville Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing Service**
- **Mental health promotion and prevention programs** such as Youth Outreach Recovery Support, Youth Live4Life and Healthy Equal Youth
- **Forensic mental health services for young people** such as Youth Justice Mental Health Initiative and Custodial Forensic Youth Mental Health Service
- **Group-based parenting programs** at eight regional Infant, Child and Youth Area Mental Health and Wellbeing Services



# Suicide prevention

**\$7.5 million** to prevent suicide, and support groups disproportionately impacted by suicide, including:

- The **Strong Brother Strong Sister** suicide prevention and cultural mentoring program and **Yarning Safe N Strong** program
- Continued delivery of the **LGBTIQA+ Aftercare** program
- Uplift the **Hospital Outreach Post-Suicidal Engagement (HOPE)** program
- Continued delivery of statewide **postvention supports**



# Alcohol and other drugs

**\$55.2 million over 4 years and \$8.2 million ongoing** to deliver AOD services. This includes funding to:

- Continue **harm reduction** supports and **outreach** services, including through:
  - Aboriginal Metropolitan Ice Partnerships
  - Outreach services in North Richmond
- Respond to **pharmacotherapy** service gaps
- Bolster **residential treatment capacity**
- Support for **First Step** mental health and addiction service



# Mental Health Workforce

Investing **over \$47.1 million in training and development**, including:

- the psychology registrar program
  - the junior medical psychiatry rotations
  - the psychiatry and supports program
- Workforce remains a cornerstone of reform with more than **\$600 million invested** in workforce reforms to enable growth, support and diversification
- ▶ **25 per cent growth** in FTE in public mental health and wellbeing services since 2021.
  - ▶ over **2,500** new and early career mental health roles created.



# Additional investments

- **\$26.6 million** to maintain existing **integrated treatment, care and support services** at Area Mental Health and Wellbeing Services to address co-occurring experiences of mental illness and addiction.
- **\$10.1 million to support young carers** through the Satellite Foundation and the Victorian Mental Illness Awareness Council's **consumer leadership**.
- **\$4.9 million** to support the operations of the **Mental Health Tribunal**.
- **\$18.2 million for the Victorian Fixated Threat Assessment Centre** to continue delivering coordinated responses, through co-located police and mental health clinicians.

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# Thank you.



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