

2021-22 Federal Budget

Mental health initiatives for Women

While many of the 2021-22 Budget initiatives are designed to provide universal access to support for both men and women, there are a number of initiatives that have been designed for challenges that disproportionately affect women.

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 women:

- **\$77.1 million** for the National Legal Assistance Partnership to support early resolution of legal problems for those experiencing mental illness, and for mental health workers in Domestic Violence Units (DVU) and Health Justice Partnerships (HJP) to support women who have experienced family violence
- **\$47.4 million** to support the mental health and wellbeing of new and expectant parents, including:
 - Expanding existing support services provided by Perinatal Anxiety and Depression Australia
 - Providing continued funding to support digital perinatal mental health screening
 - Developing a perinatal mental health minimum data set to support the identification of gaps in screening and to support evidence-based investments in perinatal mental health services
 - Delivering universal perinatal mental health screening in conjunction with states and territories.

The 2017-18 National Health Survey collected data on self-reported mental health issues in Australia found that 1 in 5 (22%) Australian females were estimated to have a current mental or behavioural condition that had lasted, or was expected to last 6 months or more. The most common mental and behavioural conditions were anxiety related problems (71%) and mood (affective) disorders (54%).¹



- **\$26.9 million** to provide additional support for people with eating disorders¹ and their families. This will build on existing interventions by improving quality and availability of care from early intervention to recovery, including:
 - Delivering the final phase of the workforce credentialing project to ensure all Australians have access to high quality care delivered under the Medicare eating disorder items.
 - Providing training to staff working in Adult Mental Health Centres improving access to free, timely and quality care.
 - Establishing a National Eating Disorder Research Centre to coordinate and conduct world-leading research into eating disorders.
 - Continuing Eating Disorders Families Australia's strive program, providing mental health support for families and carers of people with eating disorders.

Some 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. This includes: the initial establishment of 8 new centres, 24 new satellite centres, and ongoing funding for 8 existing centres, as well as the establishment of a dedicated phone service to support intake, assessment and referral. The Government will also work in partnership with state and territory governments to continue to expand the network of community-based adult mental health services.
- **\$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.
- **\$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.
- **\$117.2 million** to establish a comprehensive evidence base to support real time.

¹ Full acknowledgment that eating disorders are experienced by all Australians.



- **\$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

Butterfly Foundation Ed HOPE | 1800 33 4673

[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

<https://headtohealth.gov.au/>

1. <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/men-women/female-health/contents/how-healthy/chronic-conditions>

