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## **Pre-election survey reveals importance of mental health policy to Australian voters**

A survey commissioned by Mental Health Australia found 82% of respondents view a party's position on mental health and wellbeing and provision of related services as important in guiding their voting decision at the federal election on 21 May.

Mental Health Australia CEO Dr Leanne Beagley says the results demonstrate Australians want systemic mental health reform – implemented with vision.

“Investment in mental health is always welcomed, however the lack of detail on deliverables in the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement, the absence of any implementation framework such as Vision 2030 or a Sixth National Mental Health Plan only perpetuates tick the box enhancements,” said Dr Beagley.

“Further, 29% of respondents indicated they would change their voting choice based on a comprehensive and actionable mental health vision and investment plan from a political party.”

“Mental Health Australia engaged global research firm, Ipsos, to ask Australian voters their thoughts on mental health. The results reinforce our belief that every election issue is a mental health issue.”

“Mental Health Australia along with many others in the sector has been strongly advocating for system reform that will deliver an accessible and equitable mental health system for all.”

“Every issue we face can impact the mental health of families, our mental health system, and the mental health of our communities. These survey results show that many of us are looking at all the issues and policy announcements with mental health in mind.”

“Mental Health Australia is calling on the Australian Government to invest in four key priorities to sustain momentum in mental health reform – Lived experience leadership; Government leadership and accountability; Co-designed implementation of a community focussed mental health system; and the development of the mental health workforce.”

“These priorities have been identified through analysis of yet-to-be implemented recommendations from the 2020 Productivity Commission Inquiry into Mental Health and prioritised through consultation with Mental Health Australia members,” said Dr Beagley.

Ahead of the Federal Election, Mental Health Australia is reminding both major parties, and all candidates, that in 2022 and beyond, we must do better to reform our system with the many recommendations we already have in place.

Mental Health Australia is encouraging everyone to vote with mental health in mind.

What does it mean to vote with mental health in mind? It means to vote knowing that every issue, every announcement, every debate, every election promise made, has the potential to impact our mental health, and our mental health system.



**Mental Health  
Australia**

## Media Release

To see how a wide range of issues impact our mental health or to find out more go to <https://mhaustralia.org/2022-election-vote-mental-health-mind>

A representative sample of 1,000 Australian adults (18 years and over) responded to the survey.

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