



**Australian Government**  
**Productivity Commission**

# **Productivity Commission Mental Health Inquiry**

## **Mental Health Australia briefing**

**18 November 2020**

Stephen King, Presiding Commissioner

Julie Abramson, Commissioner

Harvey Whiteford, Associate Commissioner

## ► What will be covered?



Process



Findings



Reform areas



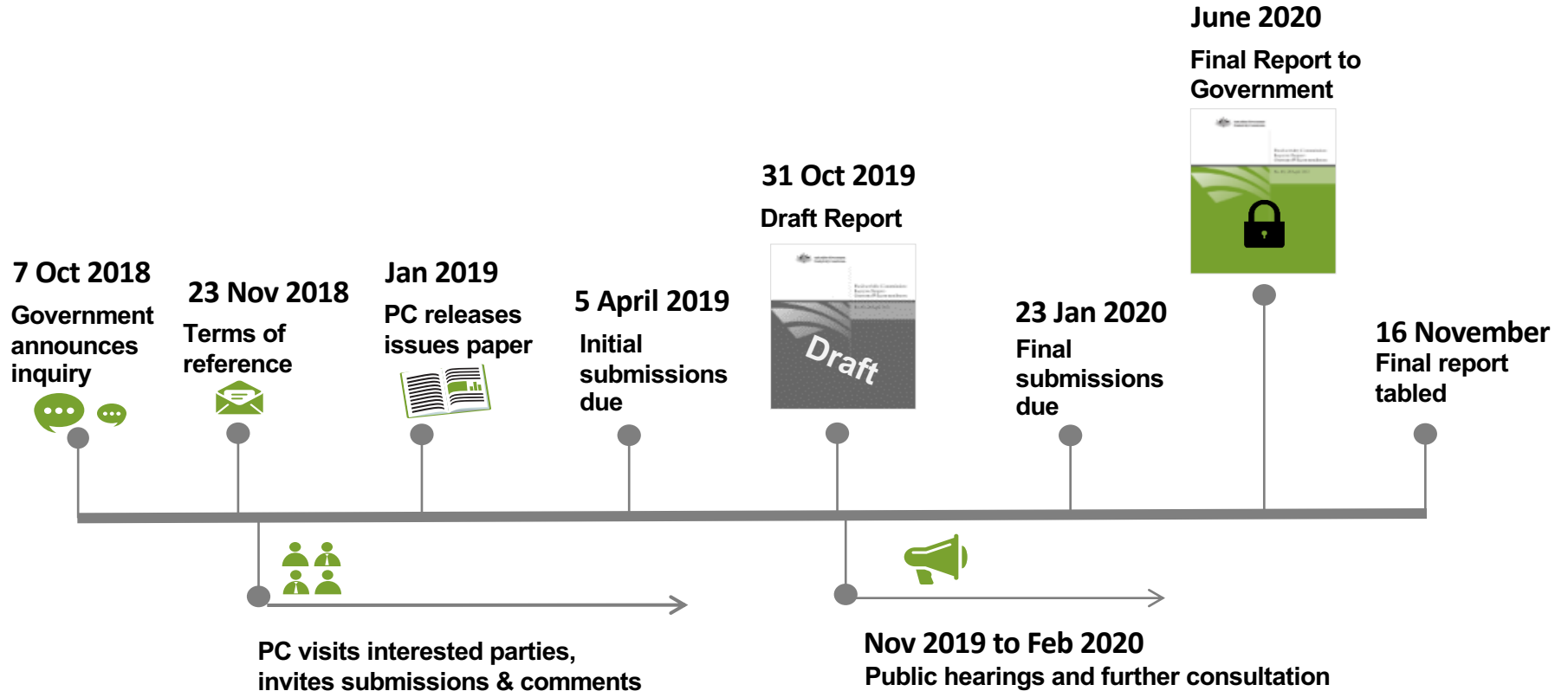
Benefits and costs





**Process**

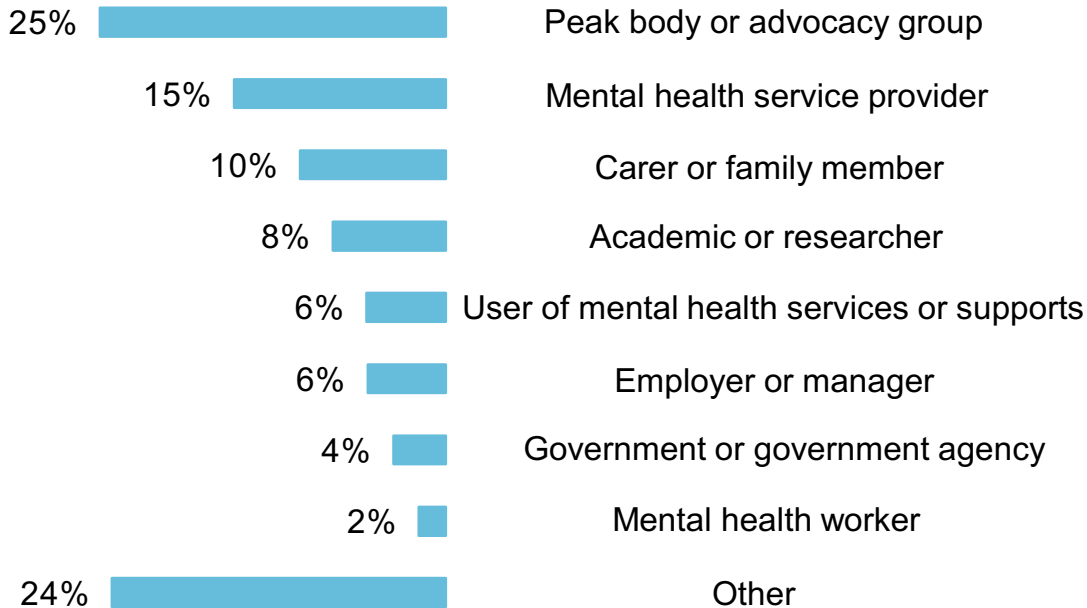
# ▶ Timeline



# ▶ Consultations

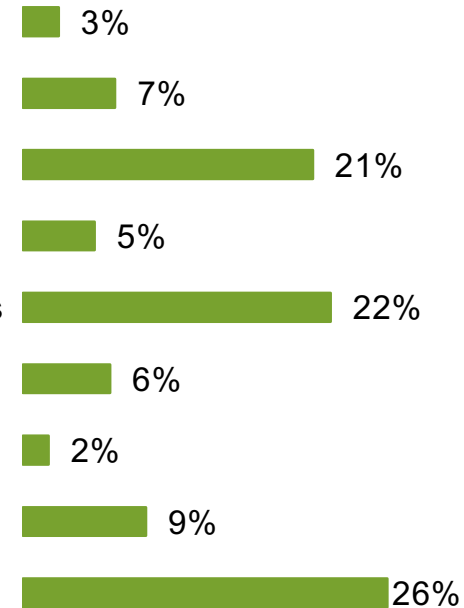
## 1273

### Submissions



## 545

### Online comments



# ► Consultations

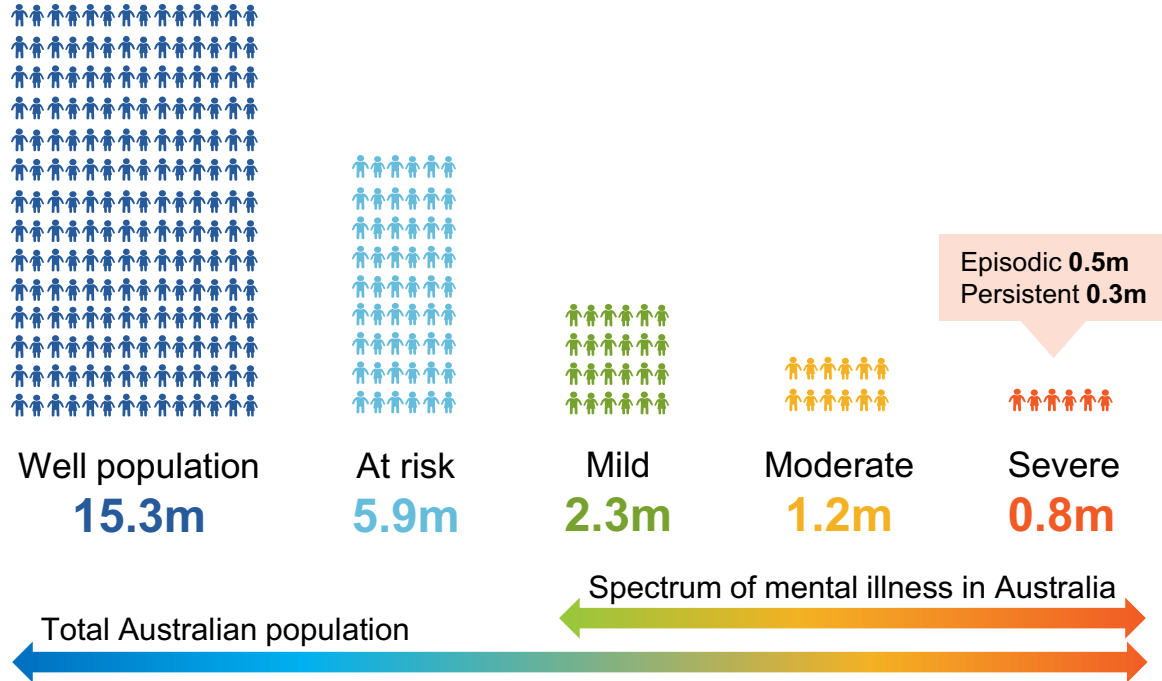




**Key findings**

# ▶ What is the prevalence of mental illness?

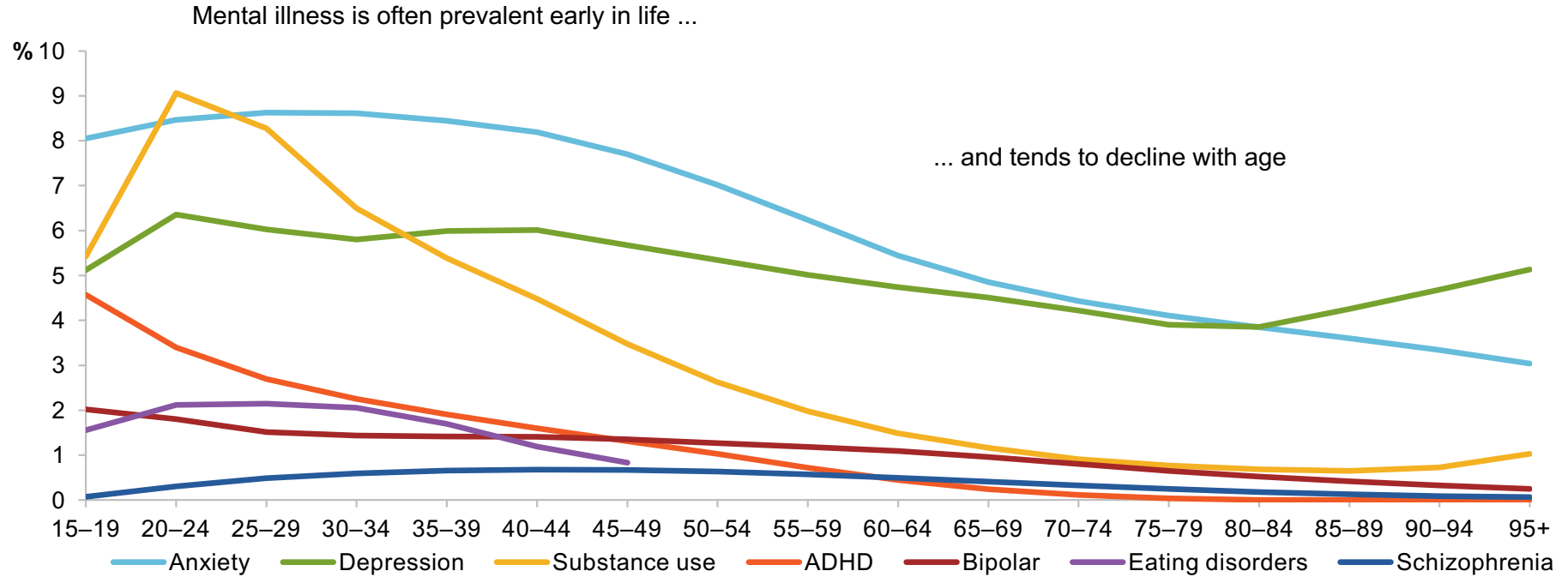
Almost half of all Australian adults have met the diagnostic criteria for a mental illness at some point in their lives.  
Almost one in five Australians have met the criteria in a given year.



Source: Productivity Commission estimates.

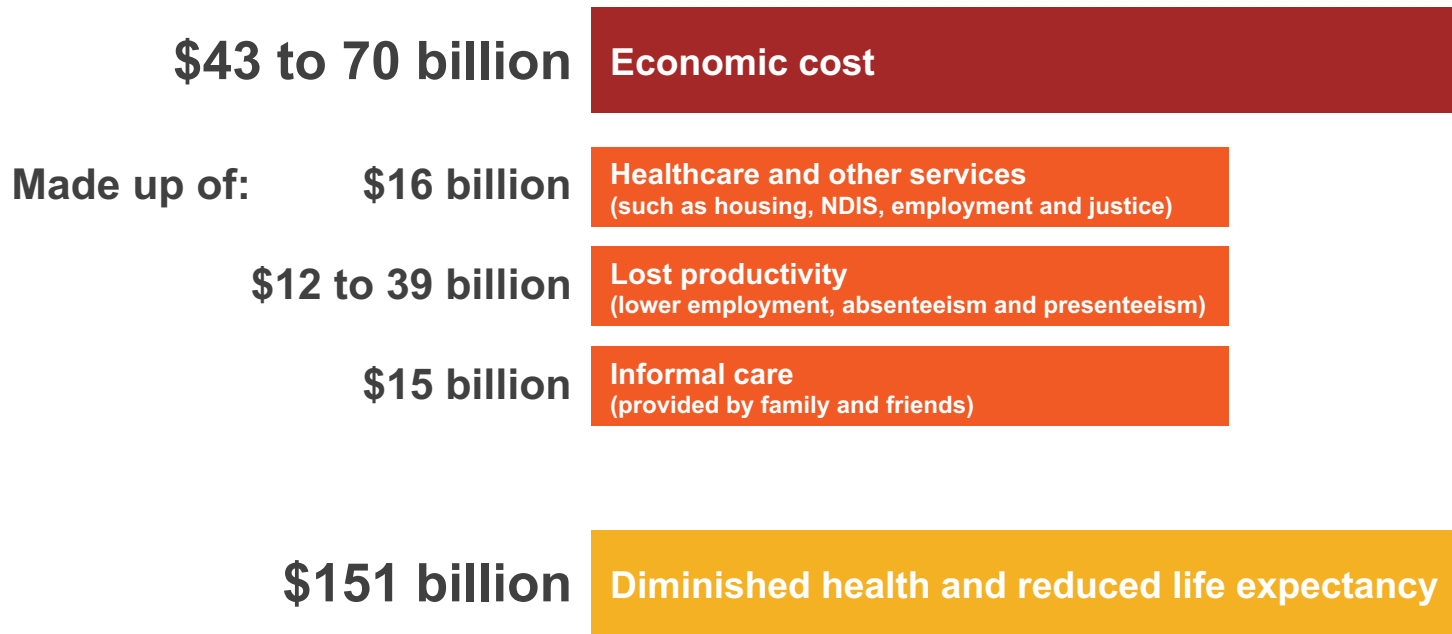


# ► What is the prevalence of mental illness?



Source: Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (2019).

# ▶ What is the annual cost of mental ill-health and suicide?



Source: Productivity Commission estimates.



A row of light bulbs is shown against a dark green background. The central bulb is illuminated, casting a bright glow, while the others are unlit. A yellow rectangular box is superimposed over the central bulb, containing the text "Reform areas".

**Reform areas**

## ► Reform directions

- People are at the centre of design and delivery of all community and clinical services.
  - A whole of life approach
  - Early intervention and prevention
- Support people to maintain health and recovery in the community
- Access to the right mix of clinical and community services at the right time
- Value of the service is the value of the outcome to the consumer



## ► Reform areas



1. Prevention and early help for people



2. Improve people's experiences with mental healthcare



3. Improve support within the community



4. Equip workplaces to be mentally healthy



5. Instil incentives and accountability for improved outcomes



# ▶ 1. Prevention and early help for people



Support the mental health of new parents



Make the social and emotional development of school children a national priority



National stigma reduction strategy



Follow-up care for people after suicide attempts



Empower Indigenous communities to prevent suicide



# ▶ Follow-up care for people after suicide attempts



**The cost of suicide and non-fatal suicide attempts each year**

**3046 deaths**

**30 000 to 90 000 attempts**

**\$30 billion**

	<b>Prevent</b>	<b>Deliver</b>
<b>Follow-up care</b>	<b>33 suicide deaths</b>	<b>\$2.37 to \$6.90 per dollar invested</b>
	<b>6150 suicide attempts</b>	<b>\$3.2 million in employment income</b>



## ▶ 2. Improve people's experiences with mental healthcare

*Create a person-centred mental health system:*

- + Evidence-based mental health assessment and referral processes that help people find the services that are best for them
- + Identify, support and include families and carers as part of mental healthcare

*Improve mental healthcare outcomes:*

- + Address adverse outcomes from prescribing practices of mental health medication
- + Reduce the gap in life expectancy for people with severe mental illness and physical illness





## ▶ 2. Improve people's experiences with mental healthcare

### *Care continuity and coordination*

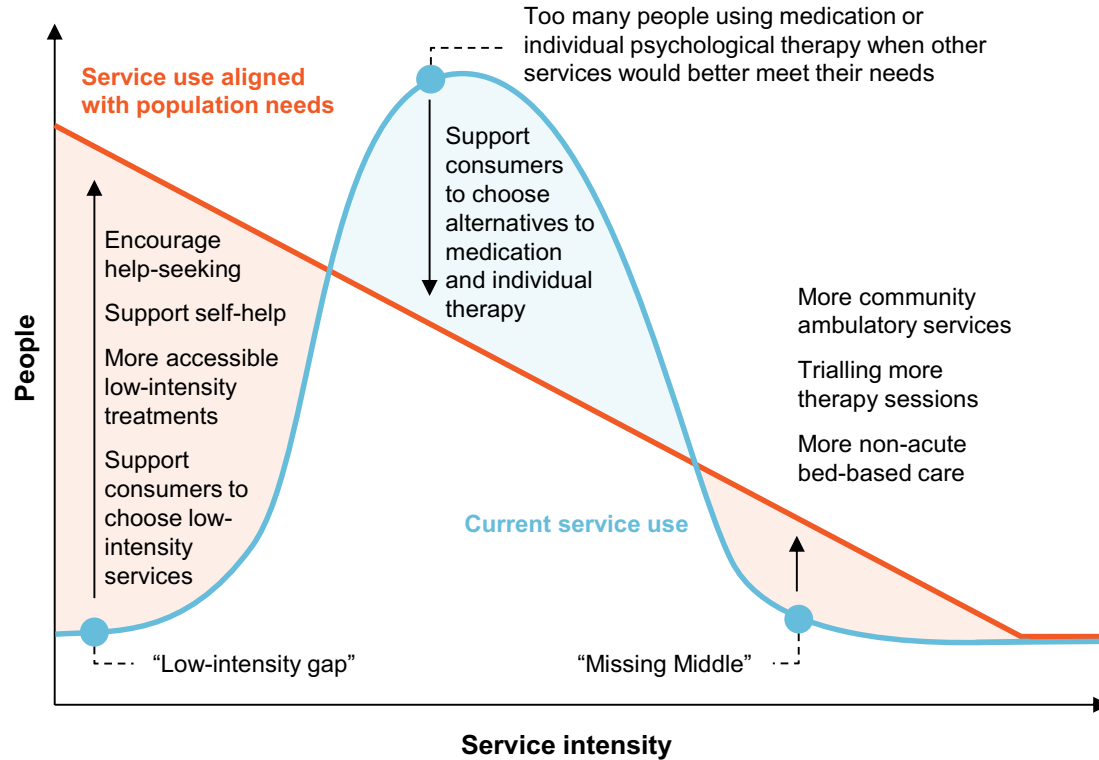
- + Coordination services and care services based on individual needs and preferences

### *Get people the right services at the right time:*

- + Expand supported online treatment, group therapies and access to mental healthcare via telehealth
- + Review limits on psychological treatment funded through Medicare and trial variations
- + Alternatives to emergency departments that are designed for people with mental illness
- + Expand community-based mental healthcare, including hospital outpatient clinics and outreach services



# ► Get people the right services at the right time





### 3. Improve support within the community



Meet demand for community support services that help people with mental illness recover and live well in the community



Commit to no discharge from care into homelessness



Increase assistance for police responding to mental illness related incidents



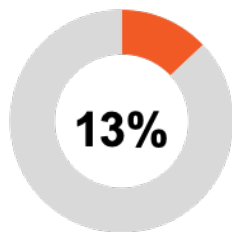
Legal representation for people facing mental health tribunals



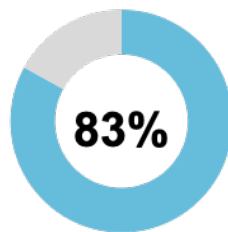
# ▶ Legal representation for people facing mental health tribunals



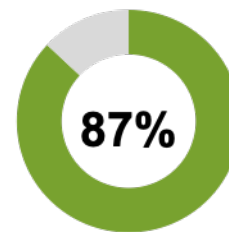
Proportion of hearings with legal representation at mental health tribunals



Victoria



New South Wales



Northern Territory

Data suggests there are differences in outcomes if people are legally represented:

- Longer hearings
- Shorter periods of compulsory treatment orders
- Higher rates of attendance by individuals
- Applications for electro-convulsive treatment more likely to be refused



## ► 4. Equip workplaces to be mentally healthy



Elevate importance of psychological health and safety in workplaces



No liability clinical treatment for mental health related workers compensation claims



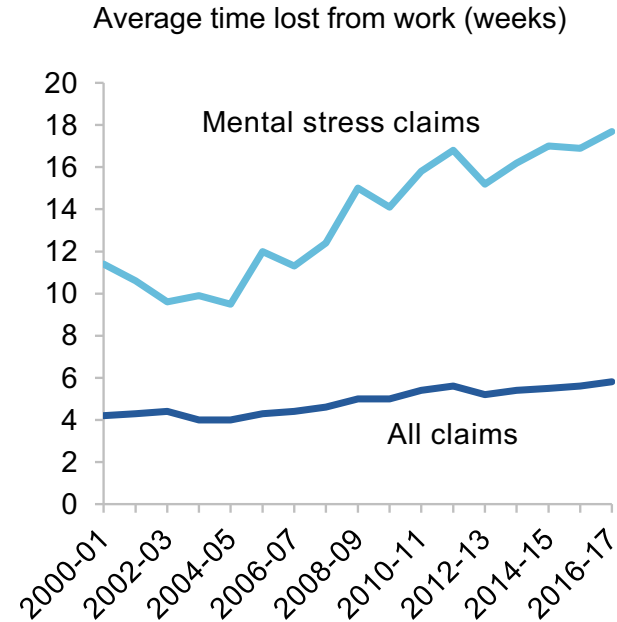
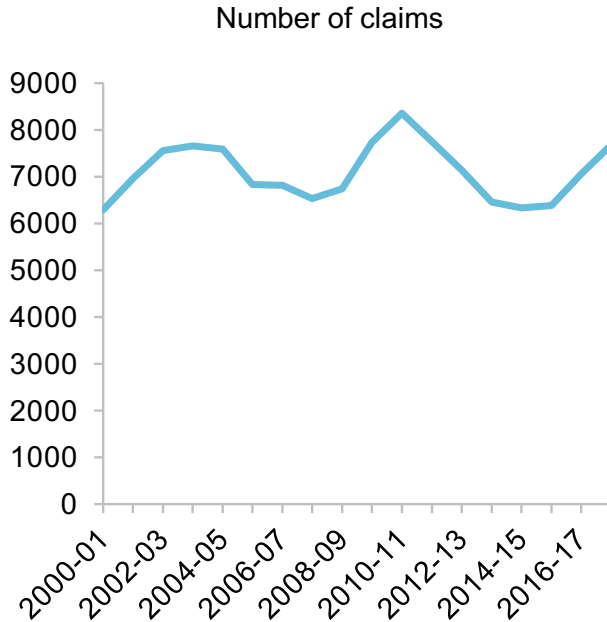
Expand the individual placement and support program for people with mental illness



# ▶ No liability clinical treatment for mental health related workers compensation claims



Serious accepted workers compensation claims caused by mental stress



## ▶ 5. Instil incentives and accountability for improved outcomes



Develop implementation plans for national strategies that integrate healthcare and other services



Commit to regional planning, decision making and commissioning, with systemic cooperation and creation of new commissioning agencies if outcomes not improved



Expand the remit and independence of the National Mental Health Commission



Consumer and carer participation and advocacy in all aspects of the mental health system

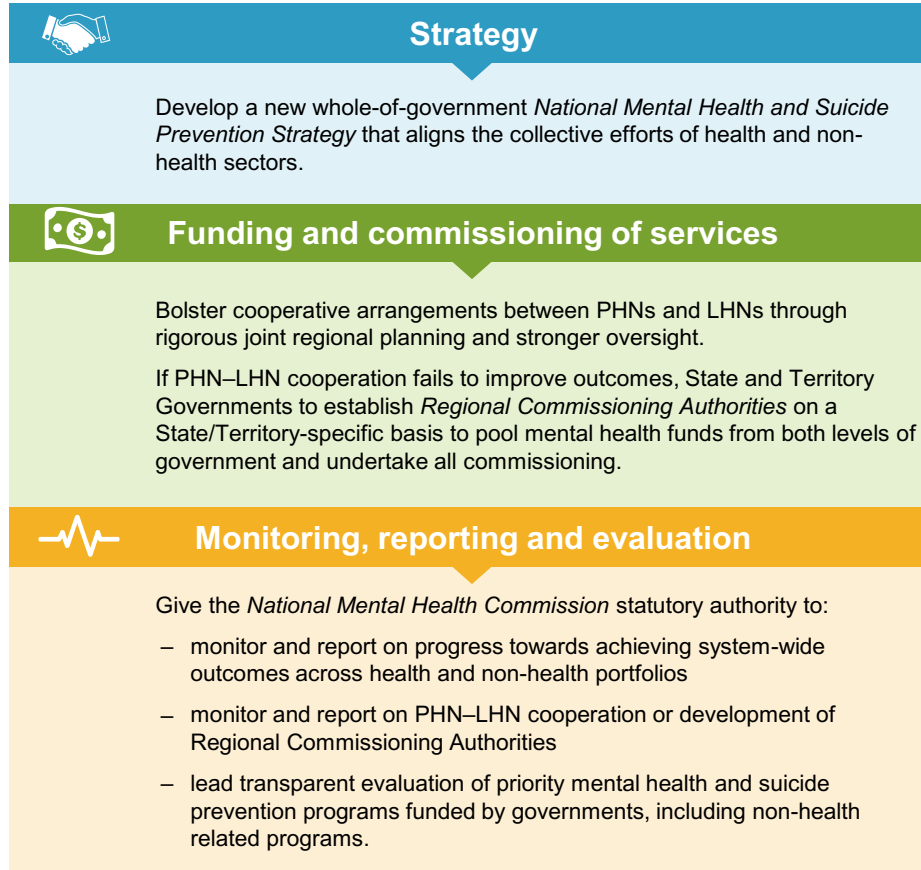


Strengthen evaluation culture, focusing on outcomes that matter to people and reporting at service provider level





## ► 5. Instil incentives and accountability for improved outcomes

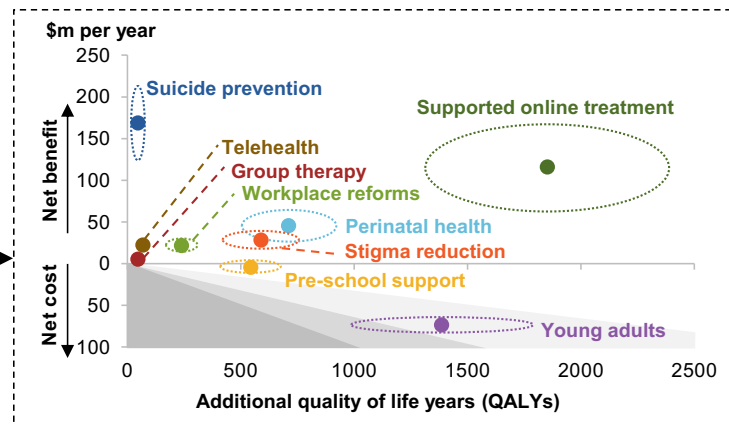
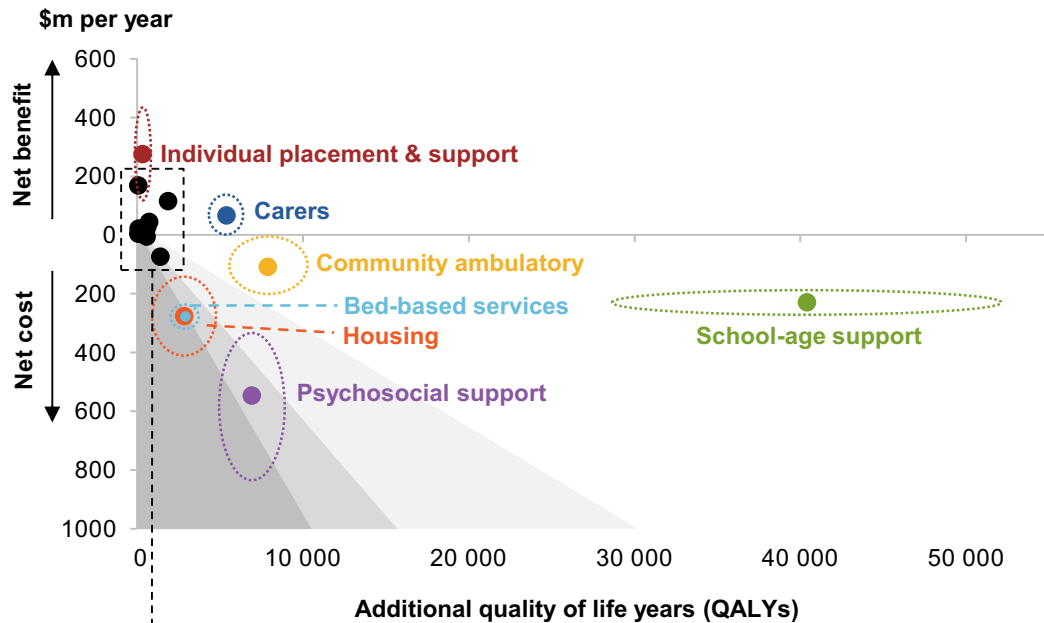




A collection of piggy banks, with one pink piggy bank standing out among many white ones. The piggy banks are arranged in a group, and the pink one is positioned in the upper right quadrant. A purple banner with white text is overlaid on the center of the image.

**Costs and benefits**

# ► Benefits and costs of recommended reforms



## ► How we prioritised reforms

- ✔ Potential to improve lives at either the individual or community level
- ✔ Benefits to the economy and expenditure required to achieve these
- ✔ Ease of implementation
- ✔ Sequencing



## ▶ Annual benefits and costs of reforms

	All reforms	Priority reforms
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### Benefits

Increased quality of life	<b>\$18 billion (84 000 QALYs)</b>	<b>\$16 billion (77 000 QALYs)</b>
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Savings	<b>\$1.3 to 1.7 billion</b>	<b>\$0.9 to 1.2 billion</b>
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Increased economic participation	<b>up to \$1.3 billion</b>	<b>up to \$1.1 billion</b>
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### Costs

Additional expenditure	<b>\$3.5 to 4.2 billion</b>	<b>\$1.9 to 2.4 billion</b>
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## ► What next?

- Some recommendations have already been done
  - Eg. Access to telehealth, additional funding for children/young people's mental health
- Australia Government said they will:
  - consider other key reports. Eg. National Suicide Prevention Taskforce (Dec 2020); Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System (Feb 2021)
  - consult until February 2021
  - issue a comprehensive response by May 2021 budget
- Consider the recommendations as a package:
  - Cherry-picking recommendations will not achieve systemic reform.





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