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MENTAL HEALTH MEASURES BIG ON PROMISES BUT SHORT ON DELIVERY

The Turnbull Government's promise to make mental health a pillar of its national health plan has failed to be delivered in the Budget.

This Budget not only falls well short of meeting the huge need for services it also lacks the necessary investment for genuine long-term reform.

Labor called on the Turnbull Government to put mental health and suicide prevention front and centre of its Budget but once again little has been achieved.

This is a lost opportunity by the Government to help around four million Australians living with a mental health illness.

And of great concern is the lost opportunity to reduce the tragic impact of suicide.

The \$80 million for psychosocial support services for people who will not be eligible for the NDIS is welcome but the funding falls well short of the investment needed.

Although the Government has invested in this Budget there is more to do.

We know investment and reform is vital if we are to improve the wellbeing of all Australians and to finally reduce the rates and impact of suicide in our society.

After previously cutting \$141 million from mental health services this \$115 million is welcome but is nowhere near enough.

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