

ELECTION 2019

**Mental Health
Australia**

Mental Health Australia - Election Report Card

At the start of the 2019 Federal Election campaign, Mental Health Australia wrote to leaders of the major parties asking for their commitment to eight key measures as part of our Election Platform. This report card provides a summary of the responses. A list of further general mental health announcements made ahead of the 2019 Federal Election can also be found below.

Permanently embed arrangements for ongoing, active involvement of consumers and carers in all areas of policy and oversight

COALITION

Not specifically addressed

AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY

Not specifically addressed

AUSTRALIAN GREENS

Not specifically addressed

Provide community-based assertive outreach to people who have attempted suicide

COALITION

The Coalition have announced a \$503.1 million Youth Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan, including \$375 million to expand and improve the headspace network.

AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY

Labor has committed to investing over \$1 billion to drive mental health and suicide prevention reform, including \$15 million to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare for improved data on self-harm and suicide, and \$263.3 million for headspace and \$114.5 million for eight adult mental health centres, as well as \$197 million to trial headspace Plus community-based hubs for young people.

AUSTRALIAN GREENS

In their 'World Class Youth Mental Health System' policy, the Greens refer to their community-based assertive outreach model as a means of *improving services for young people in crisis*, who have attempted suicide.



Expand the capacity of the NDIA to support psychosocial disability

COALITION

The Coalition are rolling out a new psychosocial disabilities stream, with specialised planners and closer linkages with mental health services, and are providing better planning and pricing for NDIS participants with complex support needs. The Coalition states that these improvements will lead to a better NDIS experience and improved long term outcomes for NDIS participants.

AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY

Labor has committed to expand the capacity of the NDIA to support psychosocial disability by removing the NDIA staff cap, freeing the agency up to make the best long-term decisions about how to deliver quality services to Australians with disability.

AUSTRALIAN GREENS

The Greens remain very concerned about access to the NDIS for people with psychosocial disabilities. They are committed to improving the NDIS for those with psychosocial disabilities and ensuring the NDIS is more accessible and reliable for people with psychosocial disabilities.

Expand the paid peer workforce

COALITION

Not specifically addressed

AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY

Not specifically addressed

AUSTRALIAN GREENS

The Greens commit to providing \$166 million to fund a two-year national peer workforce trial with 1000 places from 1 July 2019.

In their 'World Class Youth Mental Health System' policy, the Greens outline their intention to provide opportunities for young people to train as peer workers through their free TAFE initiative, which would include free places for the nationally recognised qualification in peer work, the Certificate IV in Mental Health Peer Work.



Cognitive based therapy and other interventions for children and young people		
COALITION The Coalition have committed to investing \$375 million to expand and improve the headspace network.	AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY <i>Labor will... invest \$197 million in a trial of headspace Plus community-based hubs for young people. Young people accessing headspace Plus will receive support from a range of mental health experts including GPs, mental health nurses, psychiatrists, addiction specialists and peer workers.</i>	AUSTRALIAN GREENS <i>The Greens commit to improving services for young people in crisis by providing \$25 million over the next four years for a trial of 50,000 children and young adults to access 10 group session of Cognitive Behaviour Therapy.</i>
Expand community-based psychosocial support programs		
COALITION <i>Not specifically addressed</i>	AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY <i>Not specifically addressed</i>	AUSTRALIAN GREENS <i>In their mental health initiative the Greens commit to providing \$450 million for community psychosocial services to help bridge the gap in essential services for people who can't access the NDIS.</i>
Increase uptake of e-mental health early intervention services		
COALITION <i>Not specifically addressed</i>	AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY <i>Not specifically addressed</i>	AUSTRALIAN GREENS <i>The Greens commit to improving access to online services by ensuring more young people will have access to the best practice online mental health therapies.</i>



Work with employers to improve workplace mental health and wellbeing

COALITION

The Coalition has committed to investing \$11.5 million in a new National Mental Health Workplace Initiative.

AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY

Labor has committed \$11.5 million to the National Mental Health Commission for the National Mental Health Workplace initiative.

AUSTRALIAN GREENS

The Greens commit to helping create mentally healthy workplaces by providing \$604 million over the decade for mental health workplace intervention measures in smaller businesses and \$50 million per year for three years for mental health workplace interventions in larger businesses



Other Commitments

COALITION

- Invest \$70.2 million to establish new residential eating disorders treatment facilities nationally.
- Invest \$34.1 million, including support for Indigenous leadership that delivers culturally appropriate, trauma-informed care as well as services that recognise the value of community, cultural artistic traditions and protective social factors. Their support includes \$19.6 million for measures to prevent Indigenous youth suicide, particularly in the Kimberley.
- Veteran access to assistance dogs, to boost mental health support for hundreds of veterans suffering post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).
- \$4 million to support the implementation of National Action Plan for the Health of Children and Young People 2020-2030
- Invest \$19.7 million for Royal Far West to expand their Telecare services
- \$2 million to the National LGBTI Health Alliance over two years for the peer support telephone and online support service, QLife

AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY

- Establish a National Disability Insurance Scheme Future Fund – guaranteeing that every dollar budgeted for the NDIS goes to the NDIS.
- Invest in the NDIS workforce and get the scheme back on track by investing \$40 million in local NDIS workforce trials and urgently developing a national NDIS workforce strategy.
- Commit \$70 million for eating disorders centres and national coordination for eating disorders treatment.
- Invest \$20 million for mental health nurses based on need and delivered through Primary Health Networks.
- Invest \$20 million to create Australia's first ever National Plan for Eating Disorders and Body Image Research.
- Provide \$6 million to Kids Helpline
- \$4 million investment in new Star Health Mental Health Community Hub in Prahran
- \$12 million will enable the Ted Noffs Foundation to expand its drug and

AUSTRALIAN GREENS

- World Class Youth Mental Health Policy - Build a youth mental healthcare system that helps young people get the services they need when they need them
- The Greens will help young people get the right mental health services. They will focus on early intervention and prevention and investing in tailored services that we know work. We need to focus on mental health at both a personal and community level and ensure adequate funding is given to all aspects of mental health in Australia.
- Support young people in the workplace by expanding the Individual Placement and Support trial.
- Reduce mental health stigma by investing \$10 million in a youth mental health stigma strategy.



- \$36 million to rollout the 'Mums, Dads and Bubs Check' targeting peri-natal depression
- \$1 million to improve the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living with dementia in remote Western Australian communities.
- \$14 million walk-in adult community mental health centre (part of \$736 million mental health Budget measure)
- The Coalition has invested \$11.8 million in a range of initiatives to help parents recognise when their children are struggling, improve mental health skills training in schools, enhance peer support networks and boost counselling support services for young people.
- The Coalition mental health policy includes establishing more than 20 new headspace sites in [rural] areas as well as providing new mental health telehealth services funded through the MBS.
- The plan also includes mental health and wellbeing projects, funded through their \$1.25 billion Community Health and Hospitals Program.

alcohol treatment services for young people

- \$9.5 million investment to tailor health care to the needs to those with intellectual disability
- Building a \$8 million mental health stabilisation facility near Gold Coast University Hospital
- \$500,000 in support to Lifeline
- \$13.5 million to deliver Turning Point's early intervention programs to an additional 20,000 Australians struggling with addiction
- Labor has committed \$263.3 million for headspace and \$114.5 million for eight adult mental health centres, as well as \$197 million to trial headspace Plus community-based hubs for young people.

