MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT
BUILDING BETTER LIVES

“Mental health issues have an impact that can be felt through the entire community. The Liberal-led Government has reversed the neglect and underinvestment in this area and has been the first State Government to give priority to addressing the issues behind mental health and alcohol and drug abuse in our community.”
Mental health issues have an impact that can be felt through the entire community. Prior to 2008, mental health had been ignored for far too long. The Liberal-led Government has reversed the neglect and underinvestment in this area and has been the first State Government to give priority to addressing the issues behind mental health and alcohol and drug abuse in our community.

**Fast Facts**

- One in five Australians will be affected by a mental health disorder each year. Severe mental health disorders are experienced by approximately 3% of the population.
- Around one in four Western Australians over 14 years of age are drinking at risk of lifetime harm and about one in five recently used illicit drugs.
- Every 18 minutes one person presents at a Perth emergency department for an alcohol-related injury.
- More than half of all domestic assaults are alcohol related.
- Use of amphetamine-type stimulants in WA has fallen from 6% in 1998 to 3.8% in 2013. Yet, there is a significant move to using crystal meth or ice, with police also reporting that drugs seized are more potent.

**A Strong Record**

The Liberal-led Government has introduced major reforms to address mental health, alcohol and other drug issues:

- Appointing the State’s first Minister for Mental Health and establishing Australia’s first Mental Health Commission.
- Increasing the mental health, alcohol and other drug services budget by an unprecedented 84 per cent, from $471 million in 2008 to $866 million in 2016-17 — the highest per capita spend on specialised mental health services in Australia.
- Passing historic new mental health laws that significantly improve human rights protection for people experiencing mental illness and supporting the active involvement of families and carers in their care.
- Creating the State’s first Suicide Prevention Strategy, backed by a $26 million investment over four years.

**Mental Health Beds**

The Government’s significant investment in this area includes:

- 71 more beds across the system, with additional beds at tertiary hospitals, including the State’s first dedicated youth mental health unit and a perinatal mother and baby unit at Fiona Stanley...
MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Hospital and dedicated beds for children with eating disorders at the new Perth Children’s Hospital, along with new beds at suburban and regional hospitals such as Rockingham, Broome and Albany, in line with this Government’s efforts to provide more beds closer to where people live.

• A Youth Community Mental Health pilot program to support young people with a mental illness to stay out of hospital or return home after an inpatient stay.

• Establishing a Mental Health Observation Area at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital which has reduced emergency department waiting times for mental health patients by more than 50 per cent. A second unit will be built at Joondalup Health Campus based on the success at SCGH.

Community Care

The Liberal-led State Government has led the way in community-based care options for people with mental illness, including:

• The State’s first Step-up, Step-down subacute facilities for people who are experiencing early symptoms of mental illness or are leaving hospital after treatment. The Government opened the first facility in Joondalup in 2013, in the year to date 98.7 per cent of people accessing the service have transitioned back into the community without requiring hospital re/admission. A second facility is now operating in Rockingham with a further four facilities to be open by 2018/19.

• Introducing the mental health ‘Hospital in the Home’ service to provide acute care to patients at home, including a dedicated older adult mental health Hospital in the Home service, the first of its kind in Australia.

• Funding community services organisations to support people with severe and persistent mental illness to live independently, rather than in a mental health facility.

Diversion Services

While mental health conditions may lead to individuals committing crimes, the criminal justice system is not always considered to be the best place for them. This Government has introduced:

• A trial of police and mental health co-response teams to divert people with mental illness away from the criminal justice system and to support networks, which has shown strong early success.

• The Mental Health Court Diversion and Support Program to divert adults and youth with mental illness in the criminal justice system into treatment and reduce reoffending. To date, 80 per cent of adults who have gone through the program have stopped or reduced their level of offending, while 87 per cent of youth were deemed to be at reduced risk of harming themselves or others.

www.waliberal.org.au

Authorised by A. Cox, 2/12 Parliament Place, West Perth WA 6005.
Diversion Services

The State Government has introduced a range of measures aimed at reducing the harm caused by drug and alcohol abuse, including:

- The WA Meth Strategy, which outlines a whole-of-government approach to tackling supply and reducing demand of the drug. The strategy, which includes a dedicated, 24-hour hotline, is backed by an initial $15 million over two years.
- Establishing a telephone hotline for fly-in, fly-out workers seeking confidential alcohol and drug support, assistance and advice.
- A transitional housing and support program for people recovering from alcohol and other drug abuse. The program, managed by non-government organisations such as Hope Community Services, has resulted in reduced relapse rates, increased life skills and reduced levels of homelessness.

Our Commitment

The Government is committed to the implementation of the Mental Health, Alcohol and other Drugs Services Plan which highlights the need to build community-based mental health treatment and support services; more alcohol and other drug services and increased investment in prevention.

A re-elected Liberal Government will:

- Provide funding for the provision of between 25 and 30 new mental health beds at Joondalup Hospital as part of a $140 million redevelopment of the hospital.
- Commit $49 million to fund an Integrated Mental Health Service in Geraldton which is expected to add:
  - 12 inpatient beds
  - A 4-bed mental health observation area
  - A 4-bed hospital in the home service
  - A 10 bed step-up step-down mental health facility.
- Trial a youth mental health Hospital in the Home service in the Peel and SouthWest regions at a cost of $1 million.
- Commit $4.9 million to support the development of the Peel Youth Medical Service Health Hub.
- Further tackle the meth scourge with a comprehensive $190 million package to track down, arrest and jail meth dealers and traffickers, treat and rehabilitate drug addicts, provide help and support to users and their families and educate our kids to keep them away from drugs. It includes:
  - Australia’s harshest penalties for adult meth dealers and traffickers with minimum mandatory jail terms.
  - Legislation to provide for involuntary rehabilitation for meth and other drug and alcohol users.
MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

- $20 million for more meth treatment beds.
- Legislation to create Meth Intervention Orders and Community Correction orders.
- An $8 million drug education and awareness program.
- More prosecutors, judges and magistrates.
- Additional drug treatment programs and services in prisons.
- Oversee the staged divestment of the out-dated and inadequate Graylands hospital, to be replaced by contemporary services across the State. These will be funded in part by the sale of land at the Graylands site, which will also make way for a new, contemporary service on the site.
- In addition to the new Step up Step Down facilities being progressed in Karratha, Broome and Bunbury, proceed with plans to construct a Step up Step Down facility in Kalgoorlie at a cost of $8 million. This six-bed subacute mental health facility provide short-term residential care to help people manage their mental health where admission to hospital is not necessary, and also help people transition back to life in the community after discharge from acute care in hospital.
- Maintain a dedicated Minister for Mental Health and retain the Mental Health Commission separate from the Health Department to ensure mental health and drug and alcohol treatment issues continue to be given the separate focus and attention they warrant.