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## MEDIA RELEASE

### Mental Health a winner in the 2019-20 VICTORIAN budget

Mental Health Victoria (MHV) welcomes the \$173 million commitment of new funding for mental health announced in today's Victorian State Budget.

Mental Health Victoria CEO Angus Clelland said the Budget paves the way for more significant commitments and action once the historic Royal Commission into the mental health system delivers its interim and final reports.

"It is very positive to see growth in the mental health budget as we wait for the Royal Commission's recommendations".

"This year's Budget marks the start of a once in a generation process of reform that will have a profound impact on the lives of thousands of Victorians living with mental illness", Mr Clelland said.

"The funding announced today will plug some of the gaps in the system while we wait for the interim report from the Royal Commission – which is to be released in November this year. We expect that based on the interim report there will be a much larger commitment made in the 2020-21 Budget".

Mr Clelland welcomed the Budget's forecasts for large surpluses ahead.

"The costs of implementing the Royal Commission's recommendations will likely be large and it's important to know that the Victorian Government will be well placed to meet them."

The major Victorian Budget initiatives in mental health include:

- \$17.1 million for the Royal Commission into Victoria’s Mental Health System
- \$10.2 million for a 30-bed residential rehabilitation facility in Gippsland
- \$28.7 million over two years to provide more than 7,000 people with access to care and support services
- \$17.5 million to invest in critical mental health workforce initiatives and to fund programs supporting Aboriginal Victorians with severe mental illness
- \$23.3 million for an extra 28 inpatient beds, noting that Victoria has one of the lowest bed-to-population ratios in the country.

**All quotes attributable to Angus Clelland – CEO, Mental Health Victoria**

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