



**Supporting Recovery,  
Strengthening Reform.  
Mental Health Victoria's  
Submission to the  
Victorian State Budget  
2022/23.**

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## Snapshot

Mental Health Victoria (MHV) presents to government a suite of 22 high-impact, scalable, pragmatic, evidence-informed and sector-supported initiatives, where the impact of government investment can be realised – in part or in full – within the 2022/23 budget cycle. MHV's advice to government is based on widespread and detailed sector consultation, and analysis of emerging data and trends.

Our 22 funding recommendations are mutually interdependent. Collectively, these recommendations:

- Align directly with and/or expedite key recommendations made by the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System (RCVMHS)
- Scale up critical support to consumers, carers and supporters, with a focus on communities with acute, complex, and/or intersectional need, and
- Will provide a degree of sector-wide stability to strengthen the baseline for future RCVMHS-directed reforms.

## About Mental Health Victoria

Mental Health Victoria (MHV) is the peak body for mental health in Victoria. Our members include consumer and carer groups, community health and mental health services, hospitals, medical associations and colleges, police and emergency services associations, professional associations, unions, local governments, and other bodies across the health and related sectors. Our aim is to ensure that people living with mental illness can access the care they need, when and where they need it. Our view is that all Australians should have access to a core suite of services that they can choose from – be they delivered in the home, the community, or in the hospital.

## About this submission

In preparing this submission, MHV has consulted with its membership, its Lived Experience Advisory Network and a broad range of professional and peak bodies through the Victorian Mental Health Peaks Network (VMHPN) – a network of over 40 peak and professional organisations from across the mental health and intersecting sectors. Recommendations are informed by detailed and widespread consultation across the Victorian mental health and wider community sector throughout 2021, targeted consultations in October 2021, and detailed survey responses (including several detailed budget proposals) received in October 2021.

Our aim is to ensure that people living with mental illness can access the care they need, when and where they need it. Our view is that all Australians should have access to a core suite of services that they can choose from – be they delivered in the home, the community, or in the hospital.

# Introduction

**Victoria is in the midst of a mental health and social and emotional wellbeing crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic has shone a spotlight on, and exacerbated, existing inequity and vulnerability across our diverse state. It has increased presentations and acuity of mental illness and had a profound impact on the mental health and wellbeing of young Victorians. Extraordinary demand on services across the state sits uncomfortably alongside workforce fatigue and structural workforce supply limitations.**

As we embark on a multi-year reform journey, the foundations of our mental health system are weak. It is in this unenviable context that the Victorian Government must make budgetary decisions for 2022/23 investment in mental health.

Urgent short-term investment must be made now to protect the baseline for the reforming vision of the RCMHS. MHV presents a suite of budget recommendations for 2022/3, to expand the forecasted expenditure roadmap for mental health unveiled in the 2021/22 budget. Our recommendations span 22 priority funding areas.

The majority of the 2022/23 mental health budget is costed and announced as part of the historic 4-year, \$3.8 billion mental health budget roadmap launched in 2021. Our recommendations are premised on these investments and reforms being enacted in full, and on time. For the avoidance of doubt, these budgetary recommendations should be understood as a bid for an essential expansion of this forecast investment.

Where a specific funding recommendation is tied to a named organisation, MHV's endorsement of this recommendation should not detract from separate (including core) funding that these organisations rely on and may seek through their own independent budget advocacy. Of equal importance, this budget submission seeks to be comprehensive but is non-exhaustive.

**MHV recommends a c.18% expansion of a c. \$1 billion annual budget portfolio; a policy and fiscal position we do not take lightly. Universally, MHV members and experts consulted for this submission (including members of the MHV convened Victorian Mental Health Peaks Network and Service Reform Advisory Network) describe:**

- a significant and continuing rise in the need for mental health services across Victoria;
- greater than 'normal' acuity of need; and
- a service system landscape in which many service providers are struggling to meet surges in demand.

**These recommended investments therefore, while costly, must be understood as essential support to the Victorian community as it recovers from the social, economic, and public health toll of the COVID-19 pandemic.**

## Health & Reform Context

**The ongoing mental health impacts of COVID-19 have not been evenly distributed. Emerging global data links COVID-19 infection rates and limits on human mobility with increases in major depressive disorders and anxiety disorders, with a greater impact on females and younger age groups.**

In Victoria as elsewhere, existing inequity and vulnerability has become more entrenched over the last two years. Consultations for this submission have revealed cohorts of Victorians who need urgent, immediate, and enhanced support.

MHV recommends (inter alia) enhanced support for younger Victorians, for Victorian communities with acute, complex and intersectional needs, for people living with eating disorders, for carers, families and supporters, and an enhanced role for local government in supporting mental health. We believe our recommendations will address some of the complex emerging needs across our community that the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed or exacerbated.

These recommendations will meet some immediate and reasonably foreseeable surge demand for mental health services in 2022/3. However, the Victorian Government must remain nimble and alert to the evolving trajectory of the COVID-19 pandemic and remain willing (as it has done throughout 2020 and 2021) to provide out-of-budget funding where necessary.

Overwhelming workforce shortages are apparent across all of Victoria's mental health system, and across all professions. The Victorian Government's Mental Health and Wellbeing Workforce Strategy, due in December 2021, must outline a pragmatic yet ambitious suite of policy solutions to this problem.

We recommend a series of pragmatic interventions to provide stability and support to our mental health workforce, including the lived experience workforces who will be at the heart of Victoria's renewed system. We outline steps that can and should be taken now to grow and strengthen the peer workforce.

Where practical, and where there is a compelling case, we have recommended that the implementation of certain key Royal Commission recommendations be expedited to 2022/3. As such, costs borne in the 2022/23 budget will offset future costed expenditure.

Our recommendations amplify universal calls across the sector for dedicated sector resourcing to meaningfully engage communities in the myriad reform processes underway.

Our intent is to assist the Victorian Government to stabilise mental health service systems during a year that is likely to be highly challenging: the long-shadow (and the uncertain trajectory) of the COVID-19 pandemic, economic uncertainty, climatic disruption, and associated demand on services will all co-exist with major system redesign and disruption. To safeguard the long-term reforming vision of the Royal Commission, and the commitment of the Victorian Government to realise its vision in full, these investments are an essential investment in the mental health of the State.

**The 2022/23 budget can and should support an optimistic vision for Victoria's recovery from the deep and collective trauma of the previous two years. Through supporting Victoria's recovery, the Victorian Government will strengthen the reforming vision of the Royal Commission and stabilise the foundations of the wider mental health system as multi-year reform processes begin.**



A handwritten signature in black ink.

**Angus Clelland, CEO**

# Summary of Funding Recommendations (2022/23)

## Further Invest in Prevention & Early Intervention

1. Temporarily expand the size and scope of existing Mental Health and Wellbeing Hubs (\$30.8 million).
2. Fund targeted research on population level neurological and mental health impacts arising from COVID-19 diagnoses in Victoria to inform future area and local mental health and wellbeing service planning (\$1 million).
3. Invest strategically in mental health promotion (\$3 million).
4. Fund Local Mental Health and Wellbeing Services to provide diabetes and smoking cessation support services (\$900,000).

## Mobilise local government

5. Provide funding to expedite the roll out of RCMHS recommendation 15, supporting good mental health and wellbeing in all of Victoria's local government areas (\$37.9 million).

## Resource sector-led efforts to support successful reform implementation

6. Fund a community-led implementation and engagement plan for the new Mental Health and Wellbeing Act (\$2.15 million).
7. Provide funding to peak bodies, professional associations, unions and community organisations to deliver consultation, community engagement, bespoke communications tools, and advice to the Victorian Government to support its reform agenda (\$2 million).

## Provide targeted support for vulnerable communities

8. Support diverse faith communities and organisations to provide community-led mental health and wellbeing support (\$10 million).
9. Fund enhanced mental health support in CALD and Refugee and Migrant communities (\$10 million).
10. Increase funding to Women's Mental Health Services, including through the expansion of perinatal support services, and support for specialised and culturally appropriate services (\$16.3 million).
11. Expand the funding available for Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations to self-determine culturally appropriate mental health and wellbeing interventions (\$10 million).
12. Provide dedicated, sustainable funding streams to LGBTIQ+ community-controlled organisations to scale up LGBTIQ+ community-led and specialised therapeutic, clinical and wraparound support services (\$10 million).
13. Support individuals experiencing harmful alcohol and other drug use through expanding the diversity of residential rehabilitation facilities (\$10 million).
14. Provide enhanced funding to support specialist legal services to people with a lived experience of mental illness or involvement with the mental health system (\$1 million).

## Expand support for families & carers

15. Provide additional support for families, carers, and supporters of Victorians living with the impacts of mental illness (\$1.42 million).

## Expand support for young Victorians

16. Set ambitious targets for Victorian high school teachers and support staff, other youth touch points, and parents and carers to be trained in applied suicide intervention skills (\$10 million).
17. Establish a Clinical Trial Network in Youth Mental Health (\$2 million).
18. Enhance funding for youth mental health and wellbeing and suicide prevention in additional rural and regional Victorian communities (\$460,000).

## Expand eating disorder services

19. Provide funding certainty to Eating Disorders Victoria to enable community-based online and telehealth services for people affected by or at risk of eating disorders (\$5 million).
20. Fund the establishment of a dedicated youth eating disorder research function at Orygen (\$1 million).

## Invest early in workforce attraction, growth & retention

21. Support the growth and governance of lived experience workforces through scale up of the Lived Experience Cadetship Model. Invest further in governance, leadership, and training support for lived experience workforces and employing organisations (\$9.2 million).
22. Ensure parity of pay for allied health professionals working in public mental health (\$15 million).

# Detailed Recommendations

Intervention	Description	Impact	Royal Commission Alignment	Linkage to Existing Infrastructure	Funding
<p><b>1. Temporarily expand the size and scope of existing Mental Health and Wellbeing Hubs. Provide funding to MH&amp;W Hubs to provide multi-disciplinary outreach support ('School Mental Health Hubs') to secondary school students in pilot LGAs</b></p>	<p>Double scale from 2021/22.</p> <p>Provide funding certainty through to 2024/5 to existing providers, per the 'pop-up' model funded in September 2021.</p> <p>Provide funding to pilot School Mental Health Hubs based in selected pop-up CMH&amp;W Services. The Hubs pilot provides outreach support to some of Greater Melbourne's most vulnerable secondary school students living in LGAs ranked with both high socio-economic disadvantage (SEIFA) and COVID-19 infection rates.</p>	<p>Victorian residents in need of community based mental health services and support.</p> <p>Young people at government secondary schools in Hume, Brimbank, Greater Dandenong, Whittlesea, Moreland LGAs, and their families, friends, and supporters.</p>	<p><b>RCVMHS Final Report (FR) R20</b></p> <p>Consistent with funding commitments announced in September 2021.</p> <p>Funding certainty will allow a nascent workforce to build and mature to align with the future projected workforce needs of Local Mental Health and Wellbeing Services.</p>	<p>Existing funding framework established September 2021.</p> <p>Early Intervention Psychosocial Support Response (EIPSR).</p> <p>Partners In Wellbeing - EACH, Neami National and Australian Community Support Organisation.</p> <p>Vic Gov's \$51.2M investment for mental health practitioners in schools as well as \$200M Schools Mental Health Fund, Youth Area Mental Health and Wellbeing Services (\$266M) and HOPE services (\$16M) arising from the RCVMHS.</p>	<p>\$30.8 million per annum, indexed to 2021/22, for 3 years.</p>
<p><b>2. Fund targeted research on population level neurological and mental health impacts arising from COVID-19 diagnoses in Victoria to inform future area and local mental health and wellbeing service planning</b></p>	<p>Emerging data indicates medium to long term neurological and psychological impacts.</p>	<p>By 1 November 2021, there had been 90,261 diagnosed cases of COVID-19 in Victoria since the start of the global pandemic. Population level research on mental health and neurological impacts will contribute to future service planning.</p>	<p><b>RCVMHS FR R3, R7, R47</b></p>	<p>To commence within budget cycle.</p>	<p>\$1 million.</p>
<p><b>3. Invest strategically in mental health promotion</b></p>	<p>Provide funding for state-wide mental health promotion and wellbeing campaigns focused on enhancing broad public mental health literacy, reducing stigma, promoting help-seeking/-giving and improving service awareness and navigation to mitigate projected mental health and wellbeing consequences of COVID-19 on the mental health and wellbeing of Victorians, with a focus on vulnerable groups.</p>	<p>Address the unprecedented impacts of COVID-19 on the mental health and wellbeing of Victorians. In June 2021, 27% of Victorians reported high to very high levels of psychological distress, compared to 18% in the rest of Australia. Victoria's normal rate is 15-18%. Mental illness is one of Australia's top three leading causes of disease burden, and the largest contributor to the disability burden in Victoria.</p>	<p><b>RCVMHS FR R2, R15</b></p>	<p>In September 2021, the AIHW reported an increase in psychological distress and mental health services across 2020 which continued in 2021. By supporting wellbeing, the campaign could reduce future burden on the mental health system broadly, as well as link to the new Mental Health and Wellbeing Promotion Office arising from the RCVMHS in its development of a statewide approach to promoting good mental health and wellbeing.</p>	<p>\$3 million per annum, indexable, ongoing.</p>

## Detailed Recommendations

Intervention	Description	Impact	Royal Commission Alignment	Linkage to Existing Infrastructure	Funding
<b>4. Fund Local Mental Health and Wellbeing Services to provide diabetes and smoking cessation support services</b>	Provide funding to embed diabetes and tobacco smoking cessation services as part of the LMHWS multi-disciplinary service offerings to provide holistic, wrap-around support.	The significant relationships between diabetes and mental ill health and tobacco smoking and mental health are multifaceted, complex and bi-directional.	<b>RCVMHS FR R3, R20</b>	Links to existing MBS items including Annual Diabetes Cycle of Care provided by medical practitioners and Allied Health (Diabetes Education) provided by diabetes educators.	\$900,000, indexable, scaling, ongoing.  Diabetes educator and medical practitioner sharing 1 x FTE at \$150,000 annually at each LMHWS x 6 LMHWS = \$900,000 in 2022. For full rollout of 60 x LMHS \$9.0 million annually.
<b>5. Mobilise local governments</b>	The involvement of local governments is critical to the success of the reform process.  Provide funding to fast-track the rollout of RCVMS local government initiatives (including establishing community collectives, social prescribing & digital directories) to provide communities with preventative support and promote good mental health and wellbeing.	Directly addresses the unprecedented impacts of COVID-19 on social connectedness. In 2018, 1 in 4 Australians reported feeling lonely. Recent surveys showed almost 1 in 4 Victorians did not feel connected to others in 2020. Victorians requiring non-clinical wellbeing support/preventative supports, especially more socially isolated Victorians. Priority groups should include older, isolated adults and LGAs heavily impacted by COVID-19.	<b>RCVMHS FR R15</b>	The Victorian Government has already committed to funding recommendation 15 by 2026 – this proposal fast-tracks the timeline by two years to address impacts of COVID-19.	\$37.9M per annum, indexable, ongoing.  \$7.9M to support community collective staff across all 79 LGAs, \$30M to support activities across all LGAs.
<b>6. Fund a community-led implementation and engagement plan for the new Mental Health and Wellbeing Act</b>	<b>Fund a sector-led, 2-year initiative:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide all Victorian mental health service providers and stakeholders opportunities to engage with and better understand the Act's core philosophy, objectives, targets and legislative changes</li> <li>To provide targeted training and education programs to key stakeholders in mental health service delivery around service delivery changes and requirements</li> <li>To provide expert support and advice around organisational and cultural change to organisations.</li> <li>To provide consistent, clear and relevant communication from a centralised platform across a range of media and formats.</li> </ul>	Consumers, supporters and family members, hospitals and clinical settings, Primary Healthcare, Area/ Local Mental Health and Wellbeing Services, community-based mental health and healthcare services (including the new LMH&W services), peak bodies (in mental health and intersecting sectors, including consumer and carer peaks) professional associations, trade unions, mental health and allied health workforces, broader community.	<b>RCVMHS FR R42</b>	New initiative leveraging existing expertise across the mental health sector.	\$2.15 million per annum, for 2 years.

## Detailed Recommendations

Intervention	Description	Impact	Royal Commission Alignment	Linkage to Existing Infrastructure	Funding
<b>7. Provide funding to peak bodies, professional associations, unions and community organisations to deliver consultation, community engagement, bespoke communications tools, and advice to the Victorian Government to support its reform agenda</b>	<p>Support the sector to lead and deliver innovative, tailored and accessible consultations that capture varied expertise and ensure broad participation across the communities they serve (e.g. bespoke engagement across a variety of media, sector expert-led consultation sessions) to supplement traditional or government-led approaches (e.g. government working groups, Engage Victoria website).</p> <p>Support the sector's capacity to contribute high-quality reform advice to government alongside core work while cultivating and retaining broad, distributed leadership and expertise across the sector.</p>	The mental health sector experts (including consumers, people with lived experience, and family, friends and supporters of people living with mental ill health peak bodies, professional associations, unions, and community organisations) are best placed to ensure services reflect community needs and expectations, and should be provided capacity and equitable opportunity to contribute to the reform of the system they work in and use.	<b>RCVMHS FR R28, R30 R42</b>	<p>In April 2021, the Vic Gov invested \$750k to support 16 community organisations and peak bodies in their engagement.</p> <p>Key upcoming priorities in the Vic Gov's RCVMHS reform roadmap that will require consultation include: regional commissioning, online parenting programs, specialist services, the state-wide trauma service, the suicide prevention and response strategy, new residential services, new website to navigate the mental health system, new NGO led by people with lived experience, and workforce training resources for safer services.</p>	\$2 million per annum, indexable, ongoing.
<b>8. Support diverse faith communities and organisations to provide community-led mental health support</b>	Support mental health needs in diverse faith groups, particularly Victoria's Jewish and Islamic communities who have largely self-funded relief efforts.	Stabilising surge demand for culturally appropriate mental health services	<b>RCVMHS FR R3</b>	Through existing networks.	\$10 million, indexable, ongoing.
<b>9. Provide enhanced and ongoing funding for community-based organisations supporting CALD, refugee and migrant communities, including increased existing specialised refugee mental health service capacity</b>	<p>Provide targeted funding to support the ongoing surge in demand for mental health services within migrant and refugee communities.</p> <p>Urgent need to prepare for increased demand for mental health services due to unprecedented surges of new arrivals from Afghanistan in Sept 2021 and as Australia's borders re-open from Oct 2021. Provide funding to rapidly upscale specialised Refugee Health Program and numbers of Refugee Health Fellows (under consultant psychiatrists) to support these communities.</p>	<p>More than 8000 people have been granted humanitarian visas while Australia's borders have been shut during COVID-19. Approximately 40% of these people (3200 people) are expected to settle in Victoria from 2022.</p> <p>Funding for c.2 additional Refugee Fellows per annum to support c.160 individuals; c.6 Mental Health Liaison Nurses per annum to support c.800 individuals; c.6 additional Refugee Health Nurses per annum to support the Refugee Health Program (FTE for all clinicians should be distributed geographically according to local need).</p>	<b>RCVMHS FR R3, R15, R34</b>	<p>Existing community linkages through ECCV, Women's Mental Health Alliance members, and others. Linkage to WOMHen project, funded in 2021/22.</p> <p>Boosts Victorian Government-funded Refugee Health Fellows and Refugee Health Program. Mental Health Liaison Nurses support Fellows by linking Area Mental Health Services with Refugee Health Program Nurses and can support patients across health systems.</p>	\$10 million per annum, indexed, ongoing.

## Detailed Recommendations

Intervention	Description	Impact	Royal Commission Alignment	Linkage to Existing Infrastructure	Funding
<b>10.</b> Increase funding to Women's Mental Health Services, including through the expansion of perinatal support services, expansion of multidisciplinary community mental health support services for women and children facing violence and homelessness, health and support for specialised and culturally-appropriate services	<p>RCVMHS called for expansion and reform of community perinatal health services. Ongoing surge demand for perinatal mental health services.</p> <p>Dedicated funding is required for specialised mental health services for Muslim women and communities, which take a whole-of-family approach reflecting their collective culture. AMWCHR have the requisite cultural knowledge and trust of the community.</p>	<p>Women, infants, families, carers and supporters.</p> <p>Muslim women in Victoria.</p>	<b>RCVMHS FR R18</b>	<p>Extensive infrastructure links through AMHS, and established community organisations.</p> <p>To commence within budget cycle.</p>	<p>\$15.8 million per annum.</p> <p>\$500,000, indexable, ongoing.</p>
<b>11.</b> Expand funding available to Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations to self-determine culturally appropriate social and emotional wellbeing interventions	Support urgent Aboriginal social and emotional wellbeing needs through expediting and expanding the RCVMHS reform roadmap.	Stabilising surge demand for social and emotional wellbeing services.	<b>RCVMHS FR R33</b>	Linked to \$4 million allocated in September 2021 Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations and the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency.	\$10 million, indexable, ongoing.
<b>12.</b> Support the mental health and wellbeing of Victorian LGBTIQ+ communities	Provide dedicated, sustainable funding streams to LGBTIQ+ community-controlled organisations to scale up LGBTIQ community-led and specialised therapeutic, clinical and wraparound support services as well as to embed LGBTIQ+ community-controlled teams/services in existing mainstream services.	Directly addresses the impacts of COVID-19 on LGBTIQ+ communities as a vulnerable group. In April 2021, compared to the general population, LGBTIQ+ people were 2.5 times more likely to have been diagnosed/treated for mental health condition in the past year and 30% of LGBTIQ+ adults reported having attempted suicide at some point during their lives, compared to 3% in the general population.	<b>RCVMHS FR R27, R34</b>	LGBTIQ+ community-controlled organisations fill gaps in public services and reduce burden. Vic Gov has committed to providing ongoing funding to Switchboard's Rainbow Door program as part of RCVMHS recommendation 34. In the 2021/22 Victorian Budget, Vic Gov invested \$45.5M to support the LGBTIQ+ community, including \$8.8 for well-being services and \$1M in grants for LGBTIQ+ organisations and leaders.	\$10 million per annum, indexed, ongoing.
<b>13.</b> Support individuals experiencing harmful alcohol and other drug use (including gambling) through expanding the diversity of residential rehabilitation facilities by way of workplace intervention	Provide Victorian unions and aligned service provider organisations with seed funding and a peppercorn 99-year lease of crown land for the purposes of establishing a rehabilitation and outreach service.	<p>Alleviating pressure on limited public rehabilitation bed stock (currently 502). Provide in-patient rehabilitation for 28-day period with full outpatient and outreach support with ties back to workplaces.</p> <p>Working Victorians experiencing harmful alcohol and other drug use.</p>	<b>RCVMHS FR R35</b>	The proposed model is based on the successful Foundation House model operating in New South Wales.	<p>\$10 million.</p> <p>No ongoing government funding after initial investment. The model will be funded primarily through Enterprise Bargaining Agreement contributions by employees, superannuation funds, redundancy funds and donations from businesses.</p>

## Detailed Recommendations

Intervention	Description	Impact	Royal Commission Alignment	Linkage to Existing Infrastructure	Funding
<b>14.</b> Provide enhanced funding to support specialist legal services to people with a lived experience of mental illness or involvement with the mental health system	Targeted legal support in the community, in treatment facilities and in prisons.	Addressing social determinants of mental health through holistic legal support.	<b>RCVMHS FR R56</b>	Existing infrastructure through the Mental Health Legal Centre.	\$1 million per annum, indexed, ongoing.
<b>15.</b> Provide additional support for families, carers, and supporters of Victorians living with the impacts of mental illness	Respond to ongoing surge demand for services, advice, non-legal advocacy and support.	Families, carers, and supporters of Victorians living with the impacts of mental ill- health.  1800 Tandem Support and Referral Line (\$300,000); NDIS Peer Advocacy and Support (\$300,000); Website Development (\$300,000); Participant Register System (\$300,000); development of family modules (\$220,000).	<b>RCVMHS FR R30-32</b>	Tandem is the Victorian peak body representing family and friends supporting people living with mental health issues.	\$1.42 million (Fixed 2022/23); \$600,000, ongoing, Indexable.
<b>16.</b> Set ambitious targets for Victorian high school teachers and support staff, other youth touch points and parents to be trained in applied suicide intervention skills	Upskilling Victorian high school teachers, support staff, parents and carers with the skills to spot the signs of suicide ideation and/or self-harm among young people and refer them to resources early, before they make an attempt.	Victorian high school students, their parents, carers, peers, and wider community.  583 secondary and combined schools in Victoria.  Training 200,000 parents and carers.	<b>RCVMHS FR R17.1, R20, R27, R30-31</b>	LivingWorks has existing, experienced workforce, leadership and training infrastructure (170 trainers in Victoria).	Indicative costs for 2022/23: \$10 million. 30 months.  Indicative total costs \$19.5 million (ex GST) aggregate costs across 2 years.
<b>17.</b> Establish and fund a Clinical Trial Network (CTN) in Youth Mental Health	Embed translational research strength into the youth mental health system reforms in Victoria, attract substantial national and international funding and create a cohort of new jobs in medical research and treatment.	Young Victorians, families, carers and supporters.  Strengthen youth mental health research and service sectors, by creating a reusable, sustainable, and shared infrastructure to strengthen the capacity, quality, efficiency and effectiveness of clinical research in youth mental health.	<b>RCVMHS FR R20</b>	To be delivered by Orygen. Existing clinical infrastructure across Victoria provides a ready opportunity to implement trials in prevention, early intervention, eHealth, and treatment.	\$2 million per annum, indexable, ongoing.
<b>18.</b> Enhance funding for youth mental health and wellbeing and suicide prevention in additional rural and regional Victorian communities	Provide enhanced funding (in addition to through the Schools Mental Health Fund) to implement a wide-scale, sustainable, preventative, community-led strategy that allows regional and rural communities to support youth mental health and wellbeing.	Young people living in Victorian rural/regional LGAs.	<b>RCVMHS Interim Report R1 and R3 and FR R2, R15, R17, R20, R26, R27, R31, R39 and R51</b>	Vic Gov committed \$28M to expand rural workforce and services and \$2.3M to support delivery of Live4Life in their 2020/21 budget. Live4Life can support schools, especially Vic Gov schools unable to recruit mandated mental health practitioners, rural/regional workforce shortages, and local community services (e.g., local council, PHNs), and the new Suicide Prevention and Response Office.	\$460,000 per annum, indexed, for 3 years.

## Detailed Recommendations

Intervention	Description	Impact	Royal Commission Alignment	Linkage to Existing Infrastructure	Funding
<b>19.</b> Provide funding certainty to Eating Disorders Victoria to enable community-based online and telehealth services for people affected by or at risk of eating disorders	Provide funding certainty to EDV to enable ongoing provision of their specialised suite of state-wide, community-based online and telehealth services for people affected by or at risk of EDs.	Victorians experiencing or at risk of developing an ED, their carers, families, friends and supporters.  With proposed funding, EDV could directly support 90k people over 3 years. EDV data shows ~66-81% of people participating in their programs avoided public hospital inpatient care. For e.g., est average saving of \$42k for each person in EDV's Peer Mentoring Program not admitted to public hospital.	<b>RCVMHS Interim Report R6 and FR R6-7, R28, R30, R34, R39 and R58</b>	In June 2021, Vic Gov invested an additional \$1.5M to assist services with the rise of ED during COVID-19. EDV services can support people to identify/navigate services, to connect to providers and as they are discharged from public hospitals, and support community groups to provide early intervention. EDV can link to newly-funded mandated mental health practitioners in Vic Gov schools.	\$5 million per annum, ongoing.
<b>20.</b> Establish a dedicated youth eating disorder research function at Orygen	Fund the employment of research and clinical leadership positions in eating disorders and support the development of effective interventions and treatment approaches and translate research outcomes into youth mental health service delivery across the state.	Translate research outcomes into new models of eating disorder treatment and service delivery for young people.	<b>RCVMHS Interim Report R6 and FR R6-7, R28, R30, R34, R39 and R58</b>  Federal alignment with the National Eating Disorders Research Centre.  Recent funding of \$2 million announced in January 2021 included program and direct clinical service support for young people with eating disorders.	Embedded within existing Orygen infrastructure.	\$1 million per annum, indexed, ongoing.
<b>21.</b> Support the growth and governance of lived experience workforces through scaling up the Peer Cadet Program. Invest further in governance, leadership, training support and employment pathways for peer cadets and employing organisations	Support the scaling of the Peer Cadet Program to deliver 1000 part-time peer cadet positions within 4 years.	Up to 1000 trained and work ready lived experience workers within 4 years.	<b>RCVMHS FR R6, R57</b>	A scaling of the existing peer cadet program, funded September 2021.	Total (4 year) cost: \$35 million. 2022/23 indicative costs: \$9.2 million.

## Detailed Recommendations

Intervention	Description	Impact	Royal Commission Alignment	Linkage to Existing Infrastructure	Funding
<p><b>22.</b> Ensure parity of pay for allied health professionals working in public mental health as part of the finalisation of the 2020-24 Public Sector Mental Health EBA</p>	<p>On 27 October 2021, the Victorian government announced additional increase and retention payments for allied health professionals, to help with staff retention in line with the recommendations of the Royal Commission.</p> <p>Whilst the retention bonus will put allied health at higher equivalent wage outcome percentage, these workers are starting from a lower base of pay.</p> <p>Vic government want to double the allied health workforce in the next 3 years – approximately 1405 new staff. There are widespread concerns that allied health professionals may exit public sector for higher paid work in other sectors (including the private sector and NDIS).</p>	<p>Workforce stability within the public mental health system.</p> <p>Retaining and attracting allied health members to the public mental health system.</p>	<p><b>RCVMHS FR R57</b></p>	<p>Existing industrial instrument.</p>	<p>Indicative costs: \$15M per annum for current workforce.</p>



# MentalHealth Victoria

*Collaboration • Knowledge • Leadership*

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