

# Budget Commitments 2022-23

## Prevention



### Preventing Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Project

The State Government will invest \$6.1 million over four years to continue delivery of the Preventing FASD Project. FASD describes a range of neurodevelopmental impairments caused by prenatal alcohol exposure. FASD affects the ability to think, learn, focus attention and control behaviour and emotions and can result in lifelong physical, mental and behavioural disabilities. It has been estimated as many as two per cent of all Australian babies may be born with some form of FASD. The Preventing FASD Project aims to prevent and reduce the incidence of FASD by increasing awareness of the harms associated with alcohol use in pregnancy. This funding will enable the continuation of the State-wide Alcohol.Think Again public education campaign and ongoing training for health workers across WA, including those in regional and remote communities.

For more information contact [PreventionServices@mhc.wa.gov.au](mailto:PreventionServices@mhc.wa.gov.au) or [read more](#)

### COVID-19 Suicide Prevention Programs

The State Government will invest a further \$3.51 million to meet the emerging and anticipated demand for suicide prevention services due to COVID-19. It is estimated that as COVID-19 numbers increase in Western Australia, risk factors such as isolation, social distancing and increased levels of psychological distress may contribute to a rise in suicide attempts and deaths by suicide. In line with the evidence-base underpinning the Suicide Prevention Framework 2025, funding for the continuation of successful suicide prevention programs will further support their capacity to respond to Western Australians at risk of or affected by suicide.

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### Establishment of Aftercare program

Under the Bilateral Schedule on Mental Health and Suicide Prevention: Western Australia, the State Government has co-funded \$40.4 million over four years to establish a two-part community-based Aftercare program. Aftercare services for people following a suicide attempt include care, treatment, help or supervision for the individual, and their families and carers. These services have been shown to significantly decrease further suicide attempts, noting a previous attempt is the greatest risk factor for a subsequent suicide.

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### Cardiff Model of Violence Prevention Pilot

The State Government will invest \$3.5 million over four years for the Cardiff Model of Violence Prevention Pilot at Royal Perth Hospital. The Cardiff Model aims to prevent alcohol-related violence and injuries that impact emergency departments and frontline services. Information gathered at Royal Perth Hospital will inform community-based strategies to address the causes of harm. Understanding where violence occurs empowers the community to develop successful solutions to these problems. The Cardiff Model has been shown internationally to be an effective strategy to achieve significant cost reductions to health services, the criminal justice system, police recorded injuries and hospital admissions for violence-related injuries.

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# Budget Commitments 2022-23



## Treatment Services

### Infants Children and Adolescents Mental Health Services Governance, Service Model Design and Implementation

The State Government will provide \$4 million to ensure the immediate recommendations of the Infant, Child and Adolescent Taskforce are effectively overseen, designed and implemented. This investment will assist in the development and implementation of the new models of care for existing and new services in collaboration with children, families, carers and those who work within the services. It will also support the delivery of timely, quality mental health care to children tailored to their needs, and available locally, with services working together as a coherent and cohesive system.

For more information contact [MHC.TreatmentServiceProvision@mhc.wa.gov.au](mailto:MHC.TreatmentServiceProvision@mhc.wa.gov.au) or [read more](#)



### Infant, Child and Adolescent (Lived Experience) Peer Workforce

The State Government will invest \$12.9 million over four years to increase the Infant, Child and Adolescent (ICA) frontline mental health peer workforce across the WA Country Health Service, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and Metropolitan Health Services (including peer support and Aboriginal mental health workers). Providing greater support to families and allowing clinicians to spend more time with consumers and assist with person-centred care and capacity-building of the current peer workforce by providing organisational readiness training to promote consistent understanding of the importance and role of lived experience, mental health peer workers. A three-year implementation team will be established to oversee funded initiatives and support the growth of the lived experience peer workforce into the future.

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### Infant, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Workforce Development

The State Government will invest \$1.3 million over two years to develop a specific Infant, Child and Adolescent (ICA) mental health workforce plan to grow and develop the clinical workforce pipeline, and foster existing formal partnerships with the education sector to increase the local ICA mental health workforce. An analysis of training needs will be conducted to inform the future development and delivery of a suite of training programs to build the capacity of the ICA mental health and general health workforce. An ICA specific mental health development function responsible for coordinating action across agencies will be established, to help develop the workforce plan and enhance current relationships with training and education providers.

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### Relieving Immediate Pressures on Rural and Remote Infant, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

\$18.5 million will be provided by the State Government over four years to increase to the WA Country Health Service Infant, Child, Adolescent mental health frontline face to face workforce (11.6 FTE), providing support for psychiatry, nursing, peer and Aboriginal Mental Health Workers. This funding will help address significant challenges including workforce shortages, limited primary mental health services with significantly fewer General Practitioners than the national average, and poor access to specialist mental health care, particularly for infants, children and adolescents in regional and remote areas which in the past has resulted in greater reliance on emergency departments.

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# Budget Commitments 2022-23

## **Crisis Connect – Support for at risk children, their families and carers**

The State Government will invest \$10.5 million over two years to expand Crisis Connect, supporting children (aged 0-18) and their families and carers waiting to access public specialist Infant, Child and Adolescent (ICA) mental health services (7.5 FTE). This investment will also provide additional Mental Health Practitioners with ICA mental health expertise to the WACHS Command Centre (3.89 FTE) to provide on-call 24/7 child and adolescent mental health support and expertise to clinicians in rural and remote, and better support children presenting to Emergency Departments in crisis. The Crisis Connect expansion will provide increased follow-up for children and families once discharged from Perth Children's Hospital or a youth ward. Increased, assertive and brief intervention will be available for more children and families while they're waiting to access a Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service appointment.

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## **Active Recovery Teams**

The State Government will invest \$10.8 million to continue the pilot of the Active Recovery Teams until 30 June 2023. The new services will provide an avenue to support people experiencing acute or crisis mental health and alcohol and other drug issues, tailored treatment over a 90-day period from a multi-disciplinary team. This may minimise future presentations to Emergency Departments and prolonged inpatient stays. The rollout of Active Recovery Teams is in progress with Health Service Providers and partner Non-Government Organisations operating across the metropolitan area (Rockingham/ Peel; Joondalup; Stirling; City East; Bentley; Midland; Fiona Stanley Hospital - Youth Active Recovery Team).

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## **Mental Health Emergency Telehealth Service**

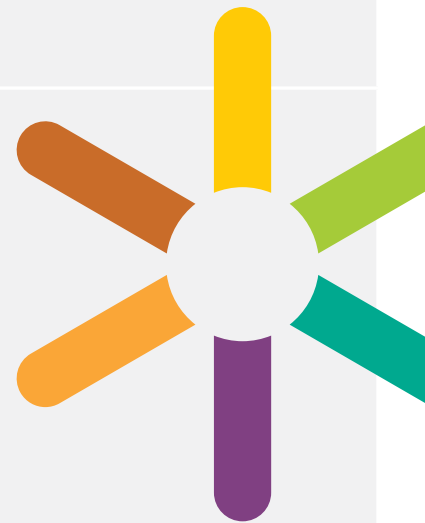
The State Government will invest \$5.1 million in the WA Country Health Service (WACHS) Mental Health Emergency Telehealth Service in 2022-23. This service provides a 24/7 acute mental health specialist workforce that reduces patient wait times, repeat Emergency Department (ED) presentations, patient transfers, inpatient admissions and re admissions. The service provides equitable access to contemporary, inclusive, and culturally safe care, provided closer to home, for more patients. The Mental Health Emergency Telehealth Service delivers high-quality, specialist acute mental health services to rural and remote Western Australians across 86 small hospitals and nursing posts across the Wheatbelt, Great Southern, Goldfields, South West, Kimberley, Pilbara and Midwest regions.

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## **Perth Sobering Up Centre and Low Medical Withdrawal Service**

The State Government will invest \$7.3 million over four years to ensure The Salvation Army can continue providing a 14-bed Sobering Up Centre, a seven-bed Low Medical Withdrawal Service and outpatient counselling support services in the Perth CBD and metropolitan area. Historically, The Salvation Army has committed to funding all of these services, however a reduction in donations and the need for increased nursing coverage has impacted capacity to maintain services.

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# Budget Commitments 2022-23

## Eating Disorder Service

The Bilateral Schedule on Mental Health and Suicide Prevention: Western Australia delivers a total \$61.5 million joint investment into mental health and suicide prevention services over four years, including \$8.6 million for an eating disorder service in the East Metropolitan area 2023-24 for three years. This will complement the two eating disorder services funded by the State Government in the South and North Metropolitan areas. Funding will support an Intensive day program and a specialist multidisciplinary outpatient clinic that includes a step-down service for inpatients with eating disorders.

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## Kids Head to Health Hub

Under the Bilateral Schedule on Mental Health and Suicide Prevention: Western Australia, the State Government has committed to co-fund the establishment of one new Head to Health Kids Hub in Western Australia. Joint funding of \$12.6 million over four years will be provided for a hub due to be operational from 2023-24. Head to Health Kids Hubs are designed to provide multi-disciplinary support to infants and children aged 0-12, and their families and carers. Implementation of the service under the Bilateral Schedule will facilitate collaborative planning and design, promoting service integration responsiveness and efficiency. Other potential benefits include streamlined referral pathways and improved early intervention, which would potentially decrease future severe presentations and acute presentation in hospital emergency departments.

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