



Western Australian

Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Strategy 2026–2031

Annual Implementation and Monitoring Plan 2026–27



Mental Health
Commission



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Acknowledgement of Country

The Mental Health Commission acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the Traditional Custodians of this country and its waters. The Commission wishes to pay its respects to Elders past and present and extend this to all Aboriginal people seeing this message.

Recognition of Lived Experience

We recognise the individual and collective expertise of those with living and lived experience of mental health issues and conditions, alcohol and other drugs issues and suicidal crisis, including their families and carers.

Feedback

Any feedback related to this document should be emailed to: StrategicPolicy@mhc.wa.gov.au or writing to GPO Box X2299, Perth Business Centre WA 6847.

Accessibility

Copies of this document may be available in alternative formats upon request.

If you have a hearing or speech impairment, you can contact us through the National Relay Service: 133 677.

Reading and understanding this document

It is recommended this document is read alongside the [Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Strategy 2026-2031](#) (Strategy). Language and terminology used in this document is defined in the Strategy, including a glossary which can be found in Appendix A to the Strategy.

Disclaimer

The information in this document has been included in good faith and is based on sources believed to be reliable and accurate at the time the document was developed. While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained within is accurate and up to date, the Mental Health Commission and the State of Western Australia do not accept liability or responsibility for the content of the document or for any consequences arising from its use.

Foreword



I am pleased to share the Mental Health Commission's (Commission) first Annual Implementation and Monitoring Plan (AIM Plan). This Plan outlines our key actions for delivering on the Western Australian [Our Priorities for Government 2025-2029](#) and the key Focus Areas of the [Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Strategy 2026-2031](#) (Strategy) for the 2026-27 financial year.

The AIM Plan reflects the Commission's commitment to being open and transparent by clearly identifying key actions in progressing the Strategy's Aspirations.

In delivering these actions, we are committed to working in partnership across government and with service providers, people with lived and living experience and their families, carers, significant others, as well as the broader community.

Working closely with the Western Australia Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) and the Australian Government is particularly important given our priority to support integrated, coordinated and seamless services. These partnerships are essential in shaping mental health and alcohol and other drugs services and supports that people need and want.

Underpinning the delivery of this AIM Plan will be the ongoing prioritisation of trauma-informed and culturally appropriate approaches, ensuring everything we do respects culture, promotes inclusion and supports equity. Listening and learning from diverse voices is essential to deliver reforms that make a real difference.

This AIM Plan will be used to help track progress against the Strategy. Regular updates and highlights of key achievements will be shared through the Strategy's dedicated [website](#). To stay informed, I encourage you to subscribe to our [Stakeholder Connect](#) e-newsletter and follow the Commission through our social media channels for updates on successes.

I would like to thank you for your continued support as we embark on this next stage of our journey in transforming our mental health and alcohol and other drugs systems, empowering and supporting people, families and communities in their wellbeing.

Ms Maureen Lewis

Commissioner, Mental Health, Alcohol and
Other Drugs
Mental Health Commission

Introduction

The [Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Strategy 2026–2031 \(Strategy\)](#) guides the transformation of Western Australia’s mental health and alcohol and other drugs systems to empower and support people, families and communities in their wellbeing.

This AIM Plan outlines the key actions the Commission will lead or support by 30 June 2027 to advance the Strategy’s Aspirations and Focus Areas. It also highlights major initiatives led by other State Government agencies, emphasising collaboration across government and partnerships.

This AIM Plan focuses on significant or new State Government priorities, commitments and reforms aligned to the Strategy’s Strategic Pillars. Whilst some actions may support multiple Focus Areas, each is only listed once.

The AIM Plan does not cover all activities by government, non-government organisations and communities, and excludes a comprehensive list of ‘business as usual’ activities. While the Strategy commenced in 2026, this AIM Plan applies to the 2026–27 financial year.

It will be refreshed and reported on annually. Progress against this AIM Plan will be reported in the 2027–28 AIM Plan.

Purpose

To guide the transformation of Western Australia’s mental health and alcohol and other drugs systems to empower and support people, families and communities in their wellbeing.

Aspirations for Transformation

People

- People’s **unique experiences, goals, culture, strengths and challenges** are acknowledged and respected.
- **People and communities** are supported to **meaningfully participate in decisions** that impact their lives and wellbeing.
- People are met with openness and understanding, and experiences free from **stigma, discrimination and racism**.

Communities

- Communities support **local connection, belonging, participation, cultural safety and wellbeing** through the development of place-based and community-led solutions that account for the localised context.
- Broader issues, such as **social, environmental, structural, commercial and cultural determinants** (determinants of health) are acknowledged and considered in service planning and development.
- **Relationships are established** across government, non-government and private organisations.

Services

- As a priority, people are supported in the community to **thrive and remain well**.
- When services are needed, they are **safe, accessible, integrated and easy to navigate**.
- **Trauma-informed and people-centred** approaches are embodied within service culture, policy, planning, design, delivery and evaluation.

Leadership

- **Leadership and governance** arrangements and practices ensure **quality, accountability and continuous improvement** of policies, initiatives, programs and services at all levels.
- **Resources** are directed to support **systems transformation** in a genuine way.

Overview

The focus of the AIM Plan is on progressing and consolidating current reforms and delivering State Government commitments.

Actions align to [Our Priorities for Government 2025–2029](#), where all Western Australians have access to the healthcare they need, when they need it, with a particular focus on the promotion of wellbeing, more support for alcohol and other drugs and mental health programs and services, and delivering community-based alternatives to emergency departments.

This means prioritising community-based support and major reforms such as the phased roll-out of the [Community Treatment, Support and Emergency Response project](#) and the [Infant, Child and Adolescent System Transformation Program](#). It also focuses on alcohol and other drugs prevention, harm reduction, treatment and support, and elevating the focus on alcohol and other drugs policy through the Office of Alcohol and Other Drugs, aligned to the [Strengthening Alcohol and Other Drugs Governance Implementation Plan](#).

The expected release of the Western Australian Suicide Prevention Framework 2026–2031, development of the Alcohol and Other Drugs Framework and a local approach to implementing the National Social and Emotional Wellbeing Framework will provide clear direction for action and support strong cross agency planning.

Ongoing work to support and contribute to broader government policy such as the [National Agreement on Closing the Gap](#), the [Family and Domestic Violence System Reform Plan 2024–2029](#), the [LGBTIQA+SB Inclusion Strategy 2025–2035](#) and the [Sustainable Health Review 2019](#) will also be prioritised to address the broader determinants of health and co-occurring needs.

Strengthening partnerships with the Australian Government and the Western Australian Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) will be a key focus to progress shared priorities such as enhancing support to primary care providers for specialised issues and populations, as well as coordinated planning and commissioning.

The Commission will also continue to work with the Australian Government to inform the development of the Western Australian psychosocial support ecosystem and increased focus on system integrations across National

Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and non-NDIS funded supports. More broadly, efforts will be directed towards opportunities for Western Australia through the development of a new National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement (National Agreement).

Underpinning the work of the Commission is our Agency Commissioning Plan, which communicates the guiding principles, intentions and focus areas for commissioning over the short and medium term aligned to the Strategy. This will be supported by an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation Commissioning Framework that will guide more Aboriginal-led responses and partnerships to improve outcomes for Aboriginal people.

The Commission remains committed to systems transformation, supported through coordinated efforts with all stakeholders including government, non-government, community and importantly those with lived or living experience, their families, carers and significant others.

Working across government and partnering with key stakeholders is essential to progressing the Strategy's Purpose and Aspirations.

There are a number of reforms identified within the Strategy that present key priorities for the Commission, all of which are at various stages of development, implementation and evaluation. The actions outlined in the AIM Plan align to the Strategy's Focus Areas and Strategic Pillars and include these key reform agendas.

The AIM Plan has a strong focus on new activity, rather than ongoing or 'business as usual' functions. This is intended to promote and showcase transformative changes in our mental health and alcohol and other drugs systems, demonstrating the innovative ways to progress the Strategy's Aspirations. This new activity complements the ongoing, everyday work undertaken by the Commission and supporting agencies to strengthen and enhance the mental health and alcohol and other drugs systems in Western Australia.

The scale and complexity of reform means that change takes time. However, with these actions working in combination, and through sustained efforts and adaptation, they will drive progress towards the Strategy's Purpose and Aspirations.

Strategic Pillars

System relation ● Mental Health System ● Alcohol and Other Drugs System



1 Approaches that promote wellbeing for everybody

- 1 Preventing and minimising alcohol and other drugs use and related harms
- 2 Improving and maintaining mental health and wellbeing
- 3 Preventing and reducing suicide and reducing suicidal distress
- 4 Enhancing community-led initiatives that support social and emotional wellbeing



2 Opportunities for people in the community to achieve their own wellbeing goals

- 5 Strengthening individual and group psychosocial supports for those in need
- 6 Enhancing access to mental health and alcohol and other drugs supports in community accommodation settings
- 7 Delivering alcohol and other drugs harm reduction initiatives
- 8 Providing contemporary models for safe places in the community



3 Equitable access to services in the community

- 9 Providing immediate access and response to people in crisis
- 10 Mental health services in the community working together to provide responsive, holistic and people-centred support
- 11 Supporting alcohol and other drugs treatment in the community to grow and diversify
- 12 Facilitating access to mental health community bed-based treatment and recovery services
- 13 Balancing access to alcohol and other drugs withdrawal, residential rehabilitation treatment, post residential treatment and supports in the community



4 Specialised and acute services for those who need them

- 14 Integrating alcohol and other drugs services within hospitals
- 15 Ensuring appropriate mental health services within hospitals
- 16 Providing mental health and alcohol and other drugs support for people engaged in or exiting the justice system and for those at risk of entering
- 17 Facilitating access to specialised statewide mental health treatment for people with complex and/or co-occurring needs



5 Foundations for contemporary, people-centred systems

- 18 Culture that values lived and living experience, diversity and equity
- 19 Robust and accountable leadership, governance, partnerships and collaboration
- 20 Complementary and coordinated state and national strategies
- 21 Infrastructure, technology and initiatives that promote system performance and access to information, supports and services
- 22 Skilled, diverse and supported workforces
- 23 Strengthening data, monitoring and evaluation to improve system and service performance

Strategic Pillar 1

System relation

-  Mental Health System
-  Alcohol and Other Drugs System

Approaches that promote wellbeing for everybody

Health promotion and prevention remains a key priority for systems transformation to enable individuals, families and communities to stay well and to reduce harm.

Throughout 2026–27, the Commission will continue to deliver public education programs such as Alcohol. Think Again, Drug Aware, Think Mental Health and Strong Spirit Strong Mind. For alcohol and other drugs, public education will be supported by regional capacity building and initiatives such as the statewide Alcohol and Other Drugs Prevention Officers network, school drug education programs and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder prevention training.

Mental health promotion programs will continue and include supporting first responders through harm prevention toolkits developed in collaboration with Curtin University, fostering community development initiatives through Prevention Officers located across Western Australia, and driving targeted strategies to enhance mental health and wellbeing.

Existing suicide prevention initiatives such as community capacity building, suicide prevention training and tailored programs for groups disproportionately impacted by suicide, alongside postvention and bereavement supports will continue to be delivered.

The Commission will also maintain its support of the Social and Emotional Wellbeing Model of Service program, the Strong Spirit Strong Mind program delivery, and activities contributing to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.



Key achievements

In 2025–26, the Commission delivered the following key initiatives in support of Strategic Pillar 1:

- Delivered mental health, alcohol and other drugs and social and emotional wellbeing public education campaigns through [Think Mental Health](#), [Alcohol. Think Again](#), [Drug Aware](#) and [Strong Spirit Strong Mind](#) programs, including the new [Amazing](#) campaign that aims to raise awareness that there is no safe amount or time to drink alcohol when pregnant.
- Launched the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Prevention Network and provided \$50,000 in grants funding to community organisations to strengthen awareness of the risks associated with alcohol use during childbearing years.
- Commissioned the Butterfly Foundation to deliver school-based eating disorders prevention programs to support protective factors for children and young people.
- Commenced delivery of the Aftercare Program in the metropolitan area and South West region.
- Facilitated implementation of the Commitment to Aboriginal Youth Wellbeing through the Kimberley Aboriginal Youth Wellbeing Steering Committee and the Kimberley Aboriginal Youth Wellbeing Partnership.
- Secured funding through the 2026–27 State Budget to support key community wellbeing and prevention initiatives, including:
 - o \$1.36 million to extend the Model for Violence Prevention Pilot to prevent alcohol-related violence and injuries that impact emergency departments and frontline services.
 - o \$1.36 million for continued access to perinatal mental health support in the South West.
 - o \$12.9 million to ensure the sustainability for existing suicide prevention services.
 - o \$4.8 million to bolster local suicide prevention and response efforts by doubling the footprint of Suicide Prevention Coordinators across the State.
 - o \$48.64 million towards the continuation of the Social and Emotional Wellbeing services, supporting and improving the wellbeing of Aboriginal people.

The Commission's significant planned activities for delivery in 2026–27 aligned to Strategic Pillar 1 are provided within this section.

Focus Area 1

Preventing and minimising alcohol and other drugs related harms

Preventing, delaying and reducing alcohol and other drugs use by creating healthy environments and strengthening protective factors at an individual and community level.

Actions

1. Develop a local government support resource to increase awareness of evidence-based local approaches to prevent and reduce drug related harms in the community.
2. Implement a second wave of the Alcohol. Think Again 'Amazing' campaign that aims to increase community awareness that there is no safe amount or time to drink alcohol when pregnant or when planning pregnancy.
3. Complete formative research and undertake planning to develop a new campaign targeting parents regarding alcohol use and young people.
4. Implement the Drug Aware 'Party Smarter' campaign that aims to reduce MDMA-related harm at music festivals, events, and venues in Western Australia.
5. Undertake planning to develop a new Drug Aware campaign, which will be informed by contemporary scientific literature and exploratory research with target groups.
6. Deliver a dedicated public education campaign to support the WA Leavers Strategy.
7. Deliver the Strong Spirit Strong Mind 'Stronger You, Stronger Mob' campaign which aims to prevent and delay the early uptake of alcohol and other drugs and improve the social and emotional wellbeing of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
8. Make submissions to liquor licensing reform and liquor application processes to increase the impact of harm minimisation provisions within the *Liquor Control Act 1988*.
9. Complete the final evaluation of the Western Australian Model for Violence Prevention Pilot which aims to prevent alcohol-related violence and injuries that impact emergency departments and frontline services.

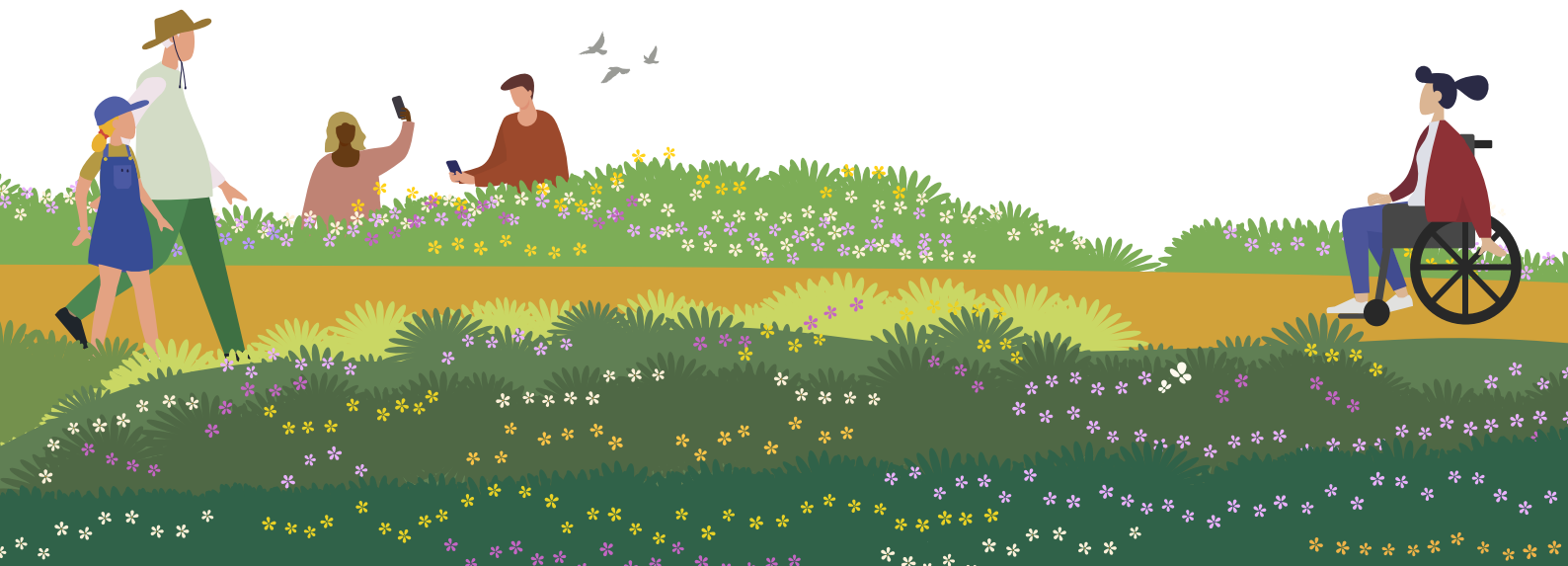
Focus Area 2

Improving and maintaining mental health and wellbeing

Equipping individuals and communities with the tools to support their own and others wellbeing.

Actions

10. Develop and deliver a public education campaign to improve the knowledge, skills and confidence of parents, guardians and carers of teenagers, enabling stronger relationships with their teens, and supporting the mental and wellbeing of both.
11. Develop and launch a new revised Think Mental Health website, to provide individuals with information to support their own and others wellbeing.
12. Facilitate the First Responders Working Group to develop opportunities and initiatives to support the mental health and wellbeing of First Responders.
13. Commission school-based eating disorders prevention programs to support protective factors for children.



Focus Area 3

Preventing and reducing suicide and reducing suicidal distress

Reducing suicide and its impacts, addressing causes of suicidal distress, strengthening care and supporting people in crisis and those bereaved by suicide.

Actions

14. Release the Western Australian Suicide Prevention Framework 2026-2031 that aims to reduce the likelihood and impacts of suicide across Western Australia.
15. Develop tailored and culturally secure suicide prevention Gatekeeper training for the human services sector in the Kimberley region, to increase their knowledge and understanding of suicidal thoughts, feelings and behaviour to respond more effectively to those in need.
16. Provide postvention support to individuals, families and communities bereaved by suicide.
17. Operationalise the new Suicide Monitoring System to support the Commission's suicide prevention program and targeted intervention planning.

Focus Area 4

Enhancing community-led initiatives that support social and emotional wellbeing

Empowering Aboriginal people and communities to design and deliver mental health and alcohol and other drugs policies, programs and services in their own communities.

Actions

18. Complete Stage 1 scoping for a strategic approach to consolidate, guide and strengthen the development of social and emotional (SEWB) initiatives in Western Australia, aligned with the National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' Mental Health and Social and Emotional Wellbeing.
19. Support the ongoing implementation of the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service SEWB Program, and the Bigiswun Youth SEWB Service in Fitzroy Crossing.
20. Work in partnership with Derby Aboriginal Health Service to commence planning for building and operationalisation of the Derby Wellness Centre.
21. Commence operation of the metropolitan Strong Spirit Strong Mind Youth Outreach program for young Aboriginal people aged 12 to 25 years.
22. Complete consultation and develop the Kimberley Aboriginal-led Alcohol and Other Drugs Plan in addressing and responding to alcohol and other drugs use issues across the region.
23. Complete the co-design of a monitoring and evaluation approach for the Kimberley Aboriginal Youth Wellbeing Steering Committee Partnership Agreement.





Spotlight: Agency actions

Significant planned activities led or supported by key state government agencies, other than the Commission, are outlined below by Focus Areas.

Action	Agency
Focus Area 1: Preventing and minimising alcohol and other drugs use and related harms.	
1. Increase support to regional areas and remote communities regarding compliance, monitoring and enforcement of alcohol restrictions and legislation (for example, Banned Drinkers Register, sly grogging, alcohol restrictions) in order to reduce supply and demand and increase community safety.	WA Police Force
2. Ongoing collection, monitoring, analysis and sharing of intelligence to detect and disrupt illicit drug related criminal activity in Western Australia, in collaboration with state and national partner agencies.	WA Police Force
3. Progress legislative liquor reforms to modernise Western Australia's <i>Liquor Control Act 1988</i> and to minimise alcohol related harms as outlined in the proposed legislative amendments in the <i>Liquor Control Amendment Bill 2025</i> .	Department of Local Government, Industry, Regulation and Safety
4. Deliver health promotion-based education and harm minimisation supports for parents to support healthy child development, from birth through childhood.	Child and Adolescent Health Service
5. Increase the number of Alcohol. Think Again Healthway partnerships, leveraging SportWest and the Road Safety Commission's Best on Road program.	Healthway
6. Identify policy-relevant research priorities to guide Healthway research investment in alcohol prevention initiatives.	Healthway
7. Provide resources, professional learning and consultancy support to schools to deliver effective drug education using a whole-of-school approach.	Department of Education
Focus Area 2: Improving and maintaining mental health and wellbeing.	
8. Implement the Mentally Healthy Workplaces Grant Program to support initiatives and services to improve workplace mental health.	Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety
9. Coordinate and deliver Youth Mental Health First Aid to public school staff and other community members who work with 'at risk' youth.	Department of Education

Action	Agency
Focus Area 2: Improving and maintaining mental health and wellbeing.	
10. Develop guidance and practical resources for public schools to address student wellbeing through whole-school approaches, documented planning, case management and referral pathways, in alignment with Student Wellbeing and Care – Future Directions.	Department of Education
11. Develop and deliver targeted trauma-informed practice professional learning for school staff, aligned to the principles of the State Government Trauma Informed Guide.	Department of Education
12. Fund community-led initiatives that support and enhance mental wellbeing by fostering social connection through participation in the arts, cultural activities, and sport and recreation.	Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport
13. Invest in welcoming, accessible places and visitor experiences that foster social connection, inclusion, community engagement, and mental wellbeing.	Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport
Focus Area 3: Preventing and reducing suicide and reducing suicidal distress.	
14. Implement the SafeSide Framework as the standard approach to suicide prevention and safety planning across health services by delivering training sessions for mental health staff on SafeSide and risk formulation, introducing safety planning and supporting documents, and developing a Safety Planning Policy.	East Metropolitan Health Service South Metropolitan Health Service
15. Implement the Aftercare Program to provide psychosocial support and care coordination for individuals following a suicidal crisis and presentation to an emergency department.	East Metropolitan Health Service North Metropolitan Health Service South Metropolitan Health Service WA Country Health Service
16. Implement a three-month pilot of the SafeSide Framework, including training for staff, as the standard approach to suicide prevention and safety planning within the Active Recovery Team.	North Metropolitan Health Service
17. Implement the Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Program Support Fund to support workplaces to implement evidence-based suicide prevention programs and initiatives for employees.	Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety
18. Deliver the Teen Mental Health First Aid training to students in years 10 to 12 across public, Catholic and independent schools.	Department of Education
19. Deliver the Gatekeeper Suicide Prevention Training across public, Catholic and independent schools.	Department of Education

Action	Agency
Focus Area 4: Enhancing community-led initiatives that support social and emotional wellbeing.	
20. Provide funding opportunities for Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to implement crime prevention and early alcohol and other drugs intervention projects.	WA Police Force
21. Implement the Strong Spirit Strong Mind program across relevant Healthway partnerships, including a minimum of two new partnerships.	Healthway
22. Increase the delivery of culturally appropriate treatment alternatives in regional areas commencing with Derby Hospital, by embedding traditional healers and language interpreters in services.	WA Country Health Service
23. Fund Aboriginal community-led programs that promote social and emotional wellbeing through participation in arts and cultural activities and sport and recreation.	Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport



Strategic Pillar 2

System relation

- Mental Health System
- Alcohol and Other Drugs System

Opportunities for people in the community to achieve their own wellbeing goals

Providing appropriate supports in the community is a key priority of the Strategy and essential to balancing the systems.

In 2026-27, the Commission will continue to deliver and commission services that promote recovery, inclusion and wellbeing for people experiencing mental health issues or conditions, and issues relating to alcohol and other drugs use.

For example, for alcohol and other drugs, this includes the Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Support Service, drug education support services workers, sobering up centres and outreach programs. There will be a continued focus on harm reduction initiatives, including needle and syringe programs, peer harm reduction and the implementation of the Take Home Naloxone Program.

For mental health, support will continue through initiatives such as group activities, personalised programs, counselling services, family and carer support, and psychosocial supports for individuals with severe and persistent mental health conditions, including for people at risk of homelessness.

Key achievements

In 2025-26, the Commission delivered the following key initiatives in support of Strategic Pillar 2:

- Fully operationalised the Youth Psychosocial Transitional Housing and Support Packages program to provide young people access to personalised supports to improve their wellbeing and capacity to live independently.
- Commissioned the Butterfly Foundation to enhance system navigation support for people experiencing eating disorders including the development of an online hub to provide clear pathways to support services.
- Expanded the Western Australian Naloxone Program to support organisations to supply free naloxone to anyone at risk of experiencing and/or witnessing a suspected opioid overdose, including additional supply pathways through registered and enrolled nurses.
- Secured funding in the 2025-26 State Budget to continue delivery of the Broome Needle and Syringe Exchange Program in partnership with the WA Country Health Service and Department of Health.

The Commission's significant planned activities for delivery in 2026-27 aligned under Strategic Pillar 2 are provided within this section.

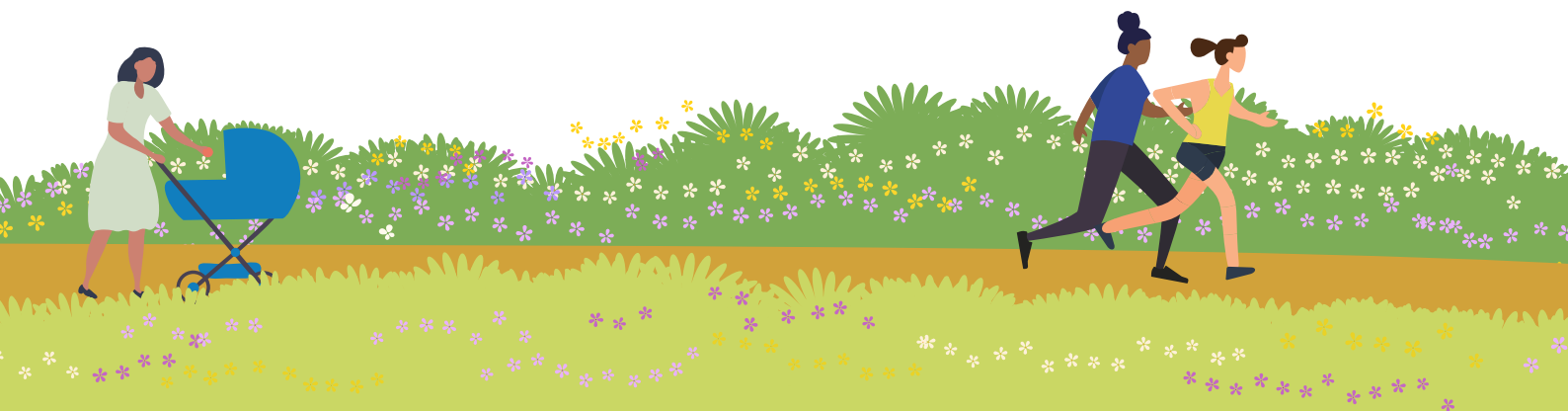
Focus Area 5

Strengthening individual and group psychosocial supports for those in need

Creating opportunities for people to remain connected to their friends, family and community through community-based, non-clinical, recovery-oriented psychosocial supports services that are tailored to individual need.

Actions

1. Implement the recommendations from the Individual Review into Mental Health Advocacy to ensure the service model is contemporary and underpinned by evidence and informed through jointly planned and co-commissioned Individual Advocacy services.
2. Actively contribute to State and Commonwealth activity in the development of Foundational Supports.
3. Actively contribute to national activities for future psychosocial support arrangements including through the new National Agreement.



Focus Area 6

Enhancing access to mental health and alcohol and other drugs supports in community accommodation settings

Providing community-based supports in responsive and stable accommodation settings to support individuals to live independently and thrive within their own communities.

Actions

4. Maintain the delivery of the Youth Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drugs Homelessness Service that supports young people with mental health issues and conditions (with or without co-occurring alcohol and other drugs issues) to transition from homelessness to more independent living.
5. Aligned to the Individualised Community Living Strategy, Youth Psychosocial Support Packages and Youth Transitional Housing and Support Program, a non-government organisation will deliver services to coordinate individualised support packages, ensuring programs support young people to achieve their mental health recovery goals.
6. Complete a Stage 1 review of contemporary models of support for people with severe and enduring mental health issues living in congregate care residential settings.



Focus Area 7

Delivering alcohol and other drugs harm reduction initiatives

Innovative and contemporary evidence-based, public health, harm reduction strategies to support safer and healthier people and communities.

Actions

7. Develop and implement operating procedures for the Early Warning System to inform timely, evidence-based clinical and community harm reduction responses.
8. Identify event safety initiatives for reducing drug related harm at music festivals and other events.
9. Expand the Western Australian Naloxone Program to introduce free take-home naloxone into additional services, including Aboriginal health services.

Focus Area 8

Providing contemporary models for safe places in the community

Responsive, immediate and appropriate support to people who are intoxicated.

Actions

10. Complete the procurement process for six sobering up services in Western Australia ensuring that service delivery meets the needs of local communities.
11. Complete the design and commence construction for the new purpose-built Sobering Up Centre in Broome.



Spotlight: Agency actions

Significant planned activities led or supported by key state government agencies, other than the Commission, are outlined below by Focus Areas.

Action	Agency
Focus Area 5: Strengthening individual and group psychosocial supports for those in need.	
1. Collaborate with TAFE to develop training packages that equip Child and Adolescent Community Health staff to support young people awaiting access to mental health services, aligned to Child and Adolescent Community Health policy and the Nurturing Relationships Mental Health Framework.	Child and Adolescent Health Service
Focus Area 7: Delivering alcohol and other drugs harm reduction initiatives.	
2. Augment alcohol and other drugs harm minimisation measures within custodial settings including education for clinical and non-clinical staff; improved access to Opioid Substitution Therapy programs; expansion of alcohol and other drugs teams; and telehealth supports in regional areas to improve assessment and management of patients presenting in withdrawal upon arrival to a custodial setting.	Department of Justice



Strategic Pillar 3

System relation

- Mental Health System
- Alcohol and Other Drugs System

Equitable access to services in the community

Providing specialist and individualised care and treatment in the community for individuals, families, carers and significant others, bridging the gap between supports in the community and hospital-based care.

Throughout 2026–27, the Commission will continue to focus on the delivery of essential community-based mental health supports to provide more appropriate care within the community and reduce the reliance on hospitals.

Ongoing mental health initiatives include Safe Havens for after-hours support without requiring intensive clinical care, and improved crisis responses through the Mental Health Co-Response Model, Here for You, the Alcohol and Drug Support Service, and the Mental Health Emergency Response Line.

Services also include the Commonwealth-funded Medicare Health Centres located in Armadale, Gosnells, Mirrabooka, and Northam, to provide free advice, support, and treatment for stress, anxiety and other mental health concerns, and the Medicare Mental Health Kids Hub in Midland, jointly funded by the Commonwealth and State Government.

Community-based alcohol and other drugs treatment services will continue through the statewide network of Community Alcohol and Drug Treatment Services, in partnership with Next Step Drug and Alcohol Service, as well as through other community-based service providers. Other initiatives such as the Drug and Alcohol Clinical Advisory Service, Community Program for Opioid Pharmacotherapy Pharmacist Training and Buprenorphine Prescriber Training will also continue to strengthen workforce capability and improve treatment outcomes.



Key achievements

In 2025-26, the Commission delivered the following key initiatives in support of Strategic Pillar 3:

- Funded the Ngala Residential Parenting Service to offer free early mental health intervention and prevention support for parents and their baby in a residential setting.
- Engaged youth mental health provider Orygen Digital to broaden access to the Moderated Online Social Therapy (MOST) digital platform, providing free online mental health service for young people aged 12 to 25, their parents and carers.
- Operationalised the Acute Care Response Teams in the metropolitan area and South West and Great Southern regions to provide mental health services for young people aged up to 18 and their families, carers and significant others.
- Implemented the WACHS Infant Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Specialist Hub to improve access to specialist community mental health treatment for children and young people in regional and remote Western Australia.
- Opened a new community mental health Step Up/Step Down service in Karratha to provide therapeutic mental health care through short-term residential support and individualised care.
- Secured funding through the 2026-27 State Budget for the following initiatives:
 - o \$43.24 million to continue the Ambulance Mental Health Co-Response initiative, providing care for individuals experiencing a mental health crisis in the community and promoting alternatives to emergency departments.
 - o \$8.83 million to expand [Statewide CAMHS Crisis Connect](#) to help ensure mental health crisis support is available to children living in rural and remote Western Australia.
 - o \$4.9 million for to provide longer-term support for children and young people in the South West bereaved by suicide.
 - o \$7.2 million to deliver short-term, non-medical residential crisis support services for young people experiencing suicidal distress.
 - o \$15.44 million to establish the new Crisis Recovery and Intervention Support Service in the metropolitan area.
 - o \$16 million for continued delivery of the Infant, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Hub in Bunbury.
 - o \$52.32 million to continue the Active Recovery Team Program to provide community-based mental health support.
 - o \$3.5 million to continue the Family Violence Perpetrator Intervention Pilot Program.

The Commission's significant planned activities for delivery in 2026-27 aligned to Strategic Pillar 3 are provided within this section.

Focus Area 9

Improving immediate access and response to people in crisis

Providing access to immediate crisis intervention, support and an appropriate level of care to individuals, family members, carers and significant others.

Actions

1. Complete the integration of the mental health co-response and ambulance mental health co-response model functions to create a cohesive and coordinated service for those requiring a mental health crisis response across Western Australia.
2. Establish and embed an Aboriginal Mental Health Liaison Officer within Perth Watchhouse to provide culturally secure, dedicated support for Aboriginal people and improve pathways to care.
3. Expand the Children and Young People Responsive Suicide Support (CYPRESS) Service into the South West, to support children and young people bereaved by suicide.
4. Commission an alcohol and other drug outreach service to work with Homeless Outreach Service to engage people at risk prior to emergency department presentation.
5. Develop a model of service informed by the review of the current Safe Haven model in Western Australia to provide peer-based alternatives to emergency departments for people who do not need intensive clinical and medical support.
6. Expand the capacity of the Mental Health Co-Response service in the metropolitan area, including training and upskilling paramedics and mental health clinicians.
7. Fully operationalise Acute Care Response Teams in the Metropolitan, South West and Great Southern to provide mental health services for young people aged up to 18 and their families, carers and significant others.
8. Progress building works associated with Immediate Drug Assistance Coordination Centre (IDACC) that will provide immediate and coordinated access to care to people facing crises related to alcohol and other drugs use.
9. Commence implementation of the Crisis Recovery and Intervention Support Service (CRISS) for individuals aged 18 years and above experiencing a mental health crisis to deliver timely, person centred, and recovery-oriented care.

Focus Area 10

Mental health services in the community working together to provide responsive, holistic and people-centred support

Integration of services, enhancing holistic service provision and providing recovery-oriented and trauma-informed care.

Actions

10. Complete a scoping report for opportunities within Health Service Providers to improve care for individuals with co-occurring mental health issues and neurodevelopmental or neuropsychiatric conditions.
11. Coordinate the development of treatment guidelines for individuals with co-occurring eating disorders and neurodevelopmental or neuropsychiatric conditions.
12. Complete Stage 1 planning to design a navigation system for mental health crisis services that supports smooth transitions between primary care, community providers and community mental health teams.
13. To inform future planning, complete an evaluation of the South West Community Infant, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Hub that provides specialised, multidisciplinary and culturally safe assessment, treatment and support to infants, children, adolescents and their families who are experiencing moderate to severe mental health issues and conditions.
14. Deliver the Infant, Child and Adolescent System Transformation Program Workplan, to provide oversight of the implementation and strategic direction of transformation projects.
15. Embed peer workers and Aboriginal mental health workers into the Mental Health Co-Response service to provide a coordinated response for people experiencing mental health crisis, including self-harm, and alcohol and other drug-related issues.
16. Fully operationalise the WACHS ICAMHS Specialist Hub to improve access to specialised community mental health treatment for children and young people in regional and remote Western Australia.
17. Establish new early intervention assessment and treatment pathways, as well as a group treatment program within the North Metropolitan Health Service for those experiencing or at risk of an eating disorder.



Focus Area 11

Supporting alcohol and other drugs treatment in the community to grow and diversify

Evidence-based community treatment, closer to home, that responds to the unique needs of individuals and families to reduce alcohol and other drugs related harms.

Actions

18. Plan and commence the procurement process for the Kimberley Youth Alcohol and Other Drug Service.
19. Initiate planning for the procurement of alcohol and other drug services delivered by Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to ensure services continue to meet local needs.
20. Participate in the national review of vocational mental health and alcohol and other drugs qualifications to ensure they meet the needs of the Western Australian sectors.



Focus Area 12

Facilitating access to mental health community bed-based treatment and recovery services

Providing treatment that best supports an individual's health and wellbeing including preventing the need for a hospital admission or assisting people to transition home from hospital.

Actions

21. Progress construction of the six-bed Broome Step Up/Step Down Service to provide support for people experiencing mental health issues, in a home-like setting close to their community, friends and family.
22. Commence Stage 2 Procurement for the service provider for the Broome Step Up/Step Down Service.
23. Complete the Detailed Design process and commence construction of the 10-bed South Hedland Step Up/Step Down Service that will provide support for people experiencing mental health issues, in a home-like setting close to their community, friends and family.
24. Appoint an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation and/or Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation to deliver psychosocial and/or clinical support services for the South Hedland Step Up/Step Down Service.
25. Finalise the concept design for the 10-bed Youth Step Up/Step Down Service in the Perth metropolitan area that will provide support for young people aged 16 to 24 years experiencing mental health issues, in a home-like setting close to their community, friends and family.
26. Finalise Stage 1 planning for a community based residential eating disorders service that will provide multidisciplinary therapeutic and supportive care in a home-like environment.

Focus Area 13

Balancing access to alcohol and other drugs withdrawal, residential rehabilitation treatment, post residential treatment and supports in the community

Providing balanced access to withdrawal, residential rehabilitation, post residential treatment and support to help facilitate a person's own treatment journey and prevent relapse.

Actions

27. Develop a model of service for a future low to medium alcohol and other drugs withdrawal facility in the West Kimberley.
28. Initiate procurement planning for alcohol and other drugs community-based withdrawal services to ensure future models are culturally secure, contemporary and responsive to local needs.
29. Complete the procurement process for the delivery of an adult alcohol and other drugs residential rehabilitation and low medical withdrawal centre in the Great Southern.
30. Initiate procurement planning for alcohol and other drugs residential rehabilitation services to ensure future models are culturally secure, contemporary and responsive to local needs.
31. Initiate procurement planning for Transitional Housing and Support Programs (THASP) that provide support for people leaving residential alcohol and other drugs treatment.





Spotlight: Agency actions

Significant planned activities led or supported by key state government agencies, other than the Commission, are outlined below by Focus Areas.

Action	Agency
Focus Area 9: Improving immediate access and response to people in crisis.	
1. Expand the Crisis Connect telehealth functions to provide supports to children, young people and carers across Western Australia experiencing mental health crises.	Child and Adolescent Health Service
2. North Metropolitan Health Service (NMHS) will assume leadership of the Ambulance Mental Health Co-Response Service, working in partnership with the State Health Operations Centre, which delivers Virtual Triage, while Mobile Co-Response Teams transition to NMHS, supporting timely and equitable mental health care across the metropolitan area.	North Metropolitan Health Service
Focus Area 10: Mental health services in the community working together to provide responsive, holistic and people-centred support.	
3. Develop resources and implement supports to improve care coordination capability of the clinical workforces across all Health Service Providers that provide Child and Adolescent Health and Mental Health Services, ensuring that local differences of need are factored into the development of these supports.	Child and Adolescent Health Service
4. Progress Child Development Service System Reform recommendations, which include the Child and Adolescent Health Service's Child Development Service and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, to map existing collaboration, identify strengths and areas for improvement, and conduct quantitative analysis of demand and service crossover through available data and information.	Child and Adolescent Health Service
5. Progress statewide attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) reforms by upskilling General Practitioners (GPs) in the diagnosis and management of ADHD in eligible patients aged 10 years and older, and issue trained GPs with designated stimulant prescriber status to support ADHD treatment within primary care, improving access to care across metropolitan, regional and rural Western Australia.	Department of Health
6. Provide grant funding to ADHD WA to deliver community-based wraparound services for children and adolescents and their parents and carers. Funded services include guidance on non-medication options, enquiry service for ADHD support, group therapy programs, school-based programs, and peer support groups.	Department of Health



Strategic Pillar 4

System relation

- Mental Health System
- Alcohol and Other Drugs System

Specialised and acute services for those who need them

People-centred, accessible, responsive, high-quality and specialised hospital-based care for those when needed.

People-centred, accessible, and high-quality hospital-based care for individuals with complex mental health issues and conditions will continue to be delivered by Health Service Providers, including inpatient units within general hospitals, emergency departments, Mental Health Observation Areas and Hospital-in-the-Home programs.

For alcohol and other drugs, this includes medically supervised withdrawal services delivered by some Health Service Providers, and hospital-based units designed for stabilisation and assessment.

Specialised statewide services for specific populations will continue, and include the Gender Diversity Service, Wungen Kartup for culturally secure Aboriginal mental health care, perinatal mental health programs and statewide eating disorder services.

Forensic mental health services remain a priority, with ongoing efforts to divert people from entering or re-entering the justice system through programs like the Start Court, Links, In-roads, in-prison treatment and rehabilitation services, the Alcohol Interlock Scheme, the Court Diversion Program and transitional support for those returning to the community.

For those requiring more acute treatment, access to specialised forensic inpatient care and community-based forensic treatment remains a focus.



Key achievements

In 2025-26, the Commission delivered the following key initiatives in support of Strategic Pillar 4:

- Opened 40 new mental health beds at Fremantle hospital, along with a 24/7 crisis mental health centre, expanding access to specialist inpatient and crisis care.
- Strengthened inter-agency collaboration to improve referral pathways for statewide alcohol and other drugs withdrawal services for people with complex and high medical needs.
- Fully operationalised the Cockburn Health Facility Unit to provide mental health care, and alcohol and other drugs and eating disorder treatment and support.
- Held a WA Diversion Program Workshop for court-based Alcohol and Other Drugs Diversion Officers, their managers and coordinators to provide opportunities for networking, sharing information and building local service and court stakeholder relationships.
- Secured funding through the 2026-27 State Budget to support inpatient mental health system capacity, including:
 - o \$16.56 million to open 25 mental health beds at Joondalup Health Campus to provide inpatient treatment and support.
 - o \$6.61 million to operate mental health beds for children and adolescents across two locations while refurbishments are carried out Perth Children's Hospital (Ward 5A).

The Commission's significant planned activities for delivery in 2026-27 aligned to Strategic Pillar 4 are provided within this section.

Focus Area 14

Integrating alcohol and other drugs services within hospitals

High quality, people-centred alcohol and other drugs treatment in hospital-based settings for those who need it.

Actions

1. Improve information sharing initiatives and inter-agency collaboration to strengthen referral pathways for statewide alcohol and other drugs withdrawal services for people with complex, high medical needs.
2. Establish a cross-health service provider network of multidisciplinary alcohol and other drugs experts to support regional and remote service delivery, through shared knowledge, scalable innovations, and efficient use of existing approaches.

Focus Area 15

Ensuring appropriate mental health services within hospitals

People-centred, high-quality and timely access to treatment and support for people with ongoing serious mental health conditions.

Actions

3. Operationalise six Mental Health Observation Area beds in Bunbury to provide responsive and specialised assessment, treatment and support for people presenting to emergency departments in mental health crisis.
4. Finalise the model of service for the Secure Extended Care Units that provide specialist sub-acute mental health treatment and rehabilitation in an authorised mental health inpatient setting.
5. Operationalise 15 new mental health beds in Geraldton, 25 at Joondalup Health Campus and 40 at Fremantle Hospital to provide intensive support and care for people experiencing mental health issues and conditions.
6. Implement actions that aim to provide seamless, integrated and supported transition for young people aged 16 to 17 years moving between children's services and youth and/or adult mental health services.

Focus Area 16

Providing mental health and alcohol and other drugs support for people engaged in or exiting the justice system and for those at risk of entering

Forensic mental health and alcohol and other drugs initiatives that support wellbeing, reduce likelihood of relapse and prevent and reduce further engagement with the justice system.

Actions

7. Hold a WA Diversion Program Workshop for court-based Alcohol and Other Drugs Diversion Officers, their managers and coordinators to provide opportunities for networking, information sharing and building local service and court stakeholder relationships, in a specialised, peer-based environment.
8. Continue to progress implementation of the *Criminal Law (Mental Impairment) Act 2023* reforms, while proactively identifying and addressing their impacts on people subject to the Act and on mental health services.

Focus Area 17

Facilitating access to specialised statewide mental health treatment for people with complex and/or co-occurring needs

Appropriate support for people with complex needs through tailored, safe, evidence-based treatment and support.

Actions

9. Finalise the Older Adult Model of Service to formalise and standardise current practice across the system by identifying and guiding key care pathways and priorities, as well as supporting people-centred, culturally safe, collaborative, inclusive, and equitable access to care.
10. Finalise the Statewide Perinatal Framework which will provide comprehensive guidance on the delivery of perinatal mental health services, including prevention, early intervention and treatment services over the full perinatal period.
11. Complete a health service provider mapping report of neurodiversity services to identify opportunities to improve access.
12. Finalise the Touchstone Model to guide the delivery of intensive mental health services, including an intensive day support program, for people with Emotionally Unstable Personality Disorder.



Spotlight: Agency actions

Significant planned activities led or supported by key state government agencies, other than the Commission, are outline below by Focus Areas.

Action	Agency
Focus Area 14: Integrating and building alcohol and other drugs services in hospitals.	
1. Open all Alcohol and Other Drugs Withdrawal beds for people aged 18 to 65 years at Fiona Stanley Hospital-Cockburn Health.	South Metropolitan Health Service
Focus Area 15: Ensuring appropriate mental health services within hospitals.	
2. Finalise the design and tender the construction of the Bentley Health Service Secure Extended Care Unit and Armadale Health Service Mental Health Emergency Centre.	East Metropolitan Health Service
3. Develop a workforce capacity and capability plan to support the Secure Extended Care Unit and Mental Health Emergency Centre services.	East Metropolitan Health Service
Focus Area 16: Providing mental health and alcohol and other drugs support for people engaged in or exiting the justice system, and for those at risk of entering.	
4. Complete the Functional Brief to inform the Graylands Campus Project (GCP), which is the first stage of expansion for forensic mental health inpatient services at the Graylands Campus.	North Metropolitan Health Service
5. Complete the procurement process to appoint a Managing Contractor for the GCP and commence the design phase for the GCP.	North Metropolitan Health Service
6. Expand the Youth Detention Specialist Neurodevelopmental and Mental Health Service within Banksia Hill Detention Centre.	North Metropolitan Health Service
7. Provide seed funding to community organisations through Police Community Services Fund focusing on projects that provide prevention and early intervention initiatives.	WA Police Force
8. Coordinate the Cannabis and Other Drug Interventions initiatives which aim to divert people from the criminal justice system and into therapeutic alternatives.	WA Police Force

Action	Agency
Focus Area 17: Facilitating access to specialised statewide mental health treatment or people with complex and/or co-occurring needs.	
9. Finalise the Model of Care and open the associated 10 bed Older Adult High Dependency Unit at Fremantle Hospital, Alma Street.	South Metropolitan Health Service
10. Progress Child Development Service System Reform recommendations to commence joint development of a clear procedure for identifying which service will assess and treat children presenting with complex and co-occurring developmental and mental health issues (including shared care opportunities).	Child and Adolescent Health Service
11. Progress development of the Adult Neurodiversity and Complex Care Model of Care.	North Metropolitan Health Service



Strategic Pillar 5

System relation

- Mental Health System
- Alcohol and Other Drugs System

Foundations for contemporary, people-centred systems

Better outcomes for individuals, families, carers, significant others and communities through contemporary systems supported by strong system-wide enablers.

Throughout 2026–27, work will continue to strengthen the foundations that support the mental health and alcohol and other drugs systems and services to work effectively. This includes growing and developing the Lived Experience (Peer) workforces across mental health and alcohol and other drugs sectors that are supported by organisational readiness activities.

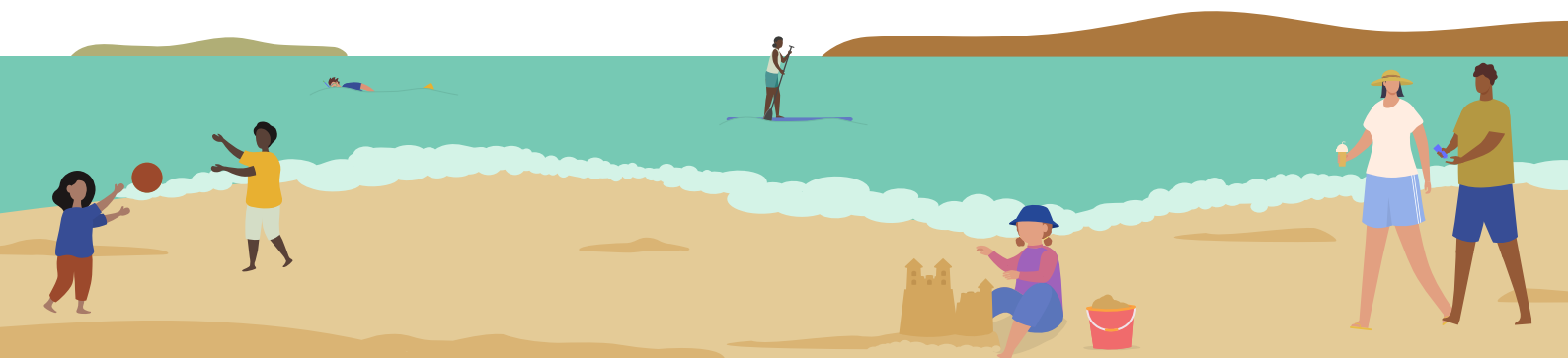
Ongoing efforts will be directed towards building workforce capability through training and policy development, as well as essential partnerships to progress whole-of-government priorities such as Closing the Gap and Family and Domestic Violence reforms.

The Commission will also continue to assist the Minister for Health and Mental Health in the effective operation and administration of the *Mental Health Act 2014* and the *Alcohol and Other Drugs Act 1974*, as well as providing support and coordination of actions to strengthen compliance.

Comprehensive analysis, interpretation, monitoring and reporting on a range of mental health and alcohol and other drugs data, as well as the delivery of attitudinal surveys will be undertaken on an ongoing basis.

Strategic policy reform, including the development of a shared framework for action, will be a focus of the Office of Alcohol and Other Drugs.

Work to improve contemporary commissioning processes, enhance system navigation, ensure accessible infrastructure and strong data governance and reporting will also progress, with the Commission recognising these are fundamental to ensuring the design and delivery of culturally appropriate and secure services and supports that people need and want.



Key achievements

In 2025-26, the Commission delivered the following key initiatives in support of Strategic Pillar 5:

- Developed the Joint Leadership Statement of Commitment for the Department of Health, Commission and each Health Service Provider to each develop a Lived Experience Inclusion Plan, which reflects a shared commitment to strengthening organisational culture and embedding lived and living experience as a core part of contemporary, people-centred systems.
- Launched the [Lived Experience \(Peer\) Workforces website](#).
- Finalised the State Government Trauma Informed Guide that provides a common understanding of a trauma informed approach.
- Commenced drafting of the *Mental Health Amendment Bill 2026* and planning for a statutory review of the *Alcohol and Other Drugs Act 1974*.
- Launched the [WA Mental Health Workforces Capability Framework](#), which outlines the knowledge, skills and values contributed by mental health professionals working in public mental health settings.
- Developed the Aboriginal Mental Health Worker Guidelines to support a consistent and culturally safe expansion of Aboriginal Mental Health workforces.
- Launched [three new Strong Spirit Strong Mind training packages](#) to support the development of a skilled Aboriginal workforce within the alcohol and other drugs and broader community services sectors and build their capacity to respond to the needs of Aboriginal individuals, youth, families and communities experiencing alcohol and other drugs and social and emotional wellbeing related harms.
- Delivered an integrated Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Commissioning Operating Model, which establishes a clear vision and strategic direction for commissioning.

The Commission's significant planned activities for delivery in 2026-27 aligned to Strategic Pillar 5 are provided within this section.

Focus Area 18

Culture that values lived and living experience, diversity and equity

Building a system that is responsive and values lived and living experience, diversity, and cultural safety.

Actions

1. Finalise and commence implementation of the Commission's Lived Experience Inclusion Plan to strengthen the role of lived and living experience as a central influence across its culture, governance, policy, commissioning and ways of working.
2. Develop tailored training and resources to support Lived Experience workforces and organisational readiness across the system.
3. Complete co-review of Engagement Framework and develop supporting documents to support best practice co-design and engagement for program planning, commissioning and procurement.
4. Disseminate and promote the State Government Trauma Informed Guide that provides a common understanding of what a trauma informed approach looks like for State Government departments and authorities.
5. Launch an online platform for the Commission to promote consultation activities and invite participation in stakeholder engagement opportunities.
6. Update the Commission's Commissioning Framework to embed Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation commissioning into the framework's business as usual processes.
7. Undertake an evidence review to scope a statewide alcohol and other drugs stigma reduction approach.

Focus Area 19

Robust and accountable leadership, governance, partnerships and collaboration

Driving people-centred outcomes through leadership, partnerships and governance arrangements.

Actions

8. Work with the Australian Government to negotiate commitments and services for inclusion in the next National Agreement and Bilateral Schedule, in line with the threshold issues and priorities set out in the WA Negotiation Strategy.
9. Engage with mental health and alcohol and other drugs peak bodies to contribute to the development of the next National Agreement.
10. Work in partnership with WAPHA to jointly advocate for funded initiatives in the National Agreement / Bilateral Schedule which prioritise prevention and early intervention initiatives; and ensure equitable access to community-based treatment and support services.
11. Implement recommendations arising from the review of the operation and effectiveness of the new mental health and alcohol and other drugs governance structures established under the Independent Governance Review of the *Health Services Act 2016*.
12. Convene the Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Deputies Group meetings to facilitate cross-government strategic policy work aligned to priorities of the Strategy and other intersecting issues.
13. Deliver the Alcohol and Other Drugs Governance Implementation Plan that outline plans to strengthen alcohol and other drugs governance, such as participation in newly established national alcohol and other drugs governance arrangements.
14. Develop a 2027–28 Annual Implementation and Monitoring Plan for the Strategy to provide transparency of achievements and planned initiatives.
15. Establish a new governance structure to help ensure there is clear oversight and monitoring of the progress of the Infant, Child and Adolescent (ICA) System Transformation Program.

Focus Area 20

Complementary and coordinated state and national strategies

Delivering evidence-based policy and strategy, contemporary legislation, regulation and quality standards that ensure safety, quality and protection of human rights.

Actions

16. Actively contribute to the National SEWB Policy Partnership Group as part of the national Closing the Gap governance structure.
17. Contribute specific SEWB, mental health and alcohol and other drugs actions to support Closing the Gap Implementation and progress against Outcome 14 – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people enjoy high levels of SEWB.
18. Under the new Strategy, develop a dedicated Alcohol and Other Drugs Framework, intended to support system transformation aligned to the Strategy's key alcohol and other drug focus areas.
19. Contribute to Sustainable Health Review reporting and implementation of Commission-led Recommendations (2b, 6 and 7), that guide the direction of the Western Australian health system to deliver patient-first, innovative and financially sustainable care.
20. Progress Commission actions of the whole-of government LGBTIQ+SB Inclusion Strategy (Action Plan 1) and contribute to actions allocated to multiple agencies where appropriate.
21. Actively collaborate with government agencies and non-government organisations to progress the Family and Domestic Violence System Reform Plan.
22. Support the cross-government implementation of recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses for Child Sexual Abuse.
23. Progress the implementation of Equally Well principles in the Commission's approaches to support the physical health of people living with a mental health condition.
24. Commence the statutory review of the operation and effectiveness of the *Alcohol and Other Drugs Act 1974*.
25. Complete the drafting of the Mental Health Amendment Bill 2026 to implement recommendations from the statutory review of the *Mental Health Act 2014*.
26. In partnership with Health Service Providers, Department of Health and key stakeholders, identify and implement actions to improve ongoing compliance with the *Mental Health Act 2014*.
27. Complete Stage 2 training enhancements to support increased compliance with the *Mental Health Act 2014*.
28. Support the development of regulation of alcohol and other drugs treatment services aligned to the recommendations made in the Inquiry into the Esther Foundation and Unregulated Private Health Facilities Report.
29. Support service providers to transition to the new Community Managed Organisations Standards for mental health services as required.

Focus Area 21

Infrastructure, technology and initiatives that support system performance and access to information, supports and services

Building structures, technology and processes that facilitate system navigation and service access, regardless of a person's circumstances.

Actions

30. Complete the refresh of the online My Services directory to assist people in the community to access mental health and alcohol and other drugs services and information.
31. Engage with stakeholders, including those with lived experience, families, carers and significant others, in infrastructure planning for new services to ensure location and build specifications are fit-for-purpose and meet localised needs.



Focus Area 22

Skilled, diverse and supported workforces

Providing modern, individualised care through a skilled, diverse, and well-supported workforce.

Actions

32. Develop a Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Strategic Workforce Action Plan that identifies workforce development initiatives that will support delivery of the Strategy across all Focus Areas.
33. Participate in the development and implementation of national and statewide workforce policies, strategies, plans and initiatives through membership of key governance structures and reference groups.
34. Deliver new training programs focused on alcohol and other drugs, Youth and SEWB to build the capability of the Aboriginal mental health and alcohol and other drugs workforces.
35. Implement a system-wide workforce survey in collaboration with stakeholders to collect baseline data from the mental health and alcohol and other drugs workforce to inform learning and development and workforce pipeline requirements and identify workforce outcome measures.
36. Promote training, including skill sets, to increase understanding and awareness within broader health care sector workforce of mental health and alcohol and other drugs issues and appropriate referral pathways.
37. Deliver education and training for mental health and alcohol and other drugs workforces, volunteers and human service agencies to enhance their capacity to engage and respond effectively to people in the community.
38. Implement the Common Risk Assessment and Risk Management Framework (CRARMF) within the Commission's frontline services for identifying family and domestic violence, and the assessment, management and monitoring of risk.
39. Promote the Australian Psychological Society's Forced Adoption training package to mental health and alcohol and other drugs services and peak bodies, including participation from frontline Commission staff.
40. Review and formalise training partnership arrangements with Department of Justice (Corrective Services).
41. Further develop and promote the Commission's online alcohol and other drugs learning programs for mental health, alcohol and other drugs, and generalist workforces to complement face-to-face training options.
42. Release the Aboriginal Mental Health Worker Guidelines that have been developed by the Commission to support consistent, culturally responsive practices in Western Australian public mental health services and support their uptake across the Western Australian health system.



Focus Area 23

Strengthening data, monitoring and evaluation to improve system and service performance

Progressing system transformation through oversight and monitoring of service and system performance, as well as monitoring population-based mental health, and alcohol and other drugs issues and trends.

Actions

43. Delivery of culturally appropriate outcomes and indicators for the Aboriginal Social and Emotional Wellbeing domain in the Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Outcomes Measurement Framework.
44. Complete a review of mental health and alcohol and other drugs data collections across the Department of Health, Health Services Providers and non-government organisations to identify opportunities to improve data capture of priority population groups where data is currently limited, such as LGBTIQ+SB communities and people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds.
45. Monitor progress of the Commission's Agency Commissioning Plan 2026–2031.
46. Commence participation in the WA Collaborative Commissioning Partnership to enhance the integration of health care through the delivery of best practice models in joint planning, collaborative commissioning, funding and governance.
47. Undertake analysis of the 2025 Australian Secondary Students Alcohol and Drug survey data.





Spotlight: Agency actions

Significant planned activities led or supported by key state government agencies, other than the Commission, are outlined below by Focus Areas.

Action	Agency
Focus Area 20: Complementary and coordinated state and national strategies.	
1. Continue to lead and implement complementary whole-of-government strategies including: • Path to Safety: Western Australia's Strategy to Reduce Family and Domestic Violence 2020-2030. • All Paths Lead to a Home: Western Australia's 10-Year Strategy on Homelessness 2020-2030, which recognises the strong connection between mental health issues and alcohol and other drugs use problems and homelessness. • A Western Australia for Everyone: State Disability Strategy 2020-2030.	Department of Communities
Focus Area 21: Infrastructure, technology and initiatives that support system performance and access to information, supports and services.	
2. In collaboration with the Department of Health, the Department of Justice will improve access to health patient systems for its clinicians, to improve continuity of care for prisoners, and contribute to their safe transition into the community upon release.	Department of Justice
Focus Area 22: Skilled, diverse and supported workforces.	
3. Progress the re-development of the Common Risk Assessment and Risk Management Framework (CRARMF) to establish an agreed practice approach across all services, including mental health and alcohol and other drugs services, for identifying family and domestic violence, and the assessment, management and monitoring of risk.	Department of Communities
4. Develop culturally responsive practice guidance for Aboriginal victim survivors to strengthen culturally safe engagement and support the application of the Common Risk Assessment and Risk Management Framework (CRARMF) across the family and domestic violence, mental health and alcohol and other drug service systems.	Department of Communities
5. Complete Phase 1 (Initiation) of the East Metropolitan Health Service Mental Health Lived Experience Strategy, which aims to support and grow the workforce.	East Metropolitan Health Service
6. Progress the development of an Allied Health Workforce and Aboriginal Workforce employed in regional health services in line with the Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Workforce Strategic Framework 2025 and the WA Health Plan Towards Modernising Career Pathways for Allied Health Professionals.	WA Country Health Service

Action	Agency
Focus Area 22: Skilled, diverse and supported workforces.	
7. Begin implementation of the North Metropolitan Health Service's Lived Experience Strategy.	North Metropolitan Health Service
8. Implement the Aboriginal Mental Health workplan supported by monitoring by the Mental Health Executive Team.	North Metropolitan Health Service

Conclusion

This AIM Plan details significant initiatives that will be implemented in the 2026-27 financial year, in alignment with the Strategic Pillars and Focus Areas of the Strategy. Through the clearly defined actions included, this AIM Plan reinforces the Commission's commitment to transparency, collaboration and continuous improvement of our mental health and alcohol and other drugs systems.

Alongside these actions, it is essential that all stakeholders continue to champion new ways of working and thinking to ensure lived and living experience, culture, and diversity are at the heart of mental health and alcohol and other drugs service planning and delivery.

As implementation progresses, the Commission will work with our Government and non-government partners to address the future Focus Areas outlined in the Strategy, as well as be responsive to emerging needs and Government priorities. Together, these efforts will drive sustainable change, improve wellbeing, and create a system that empowers people, families, and communities in their wellbeing.



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