WORLD CLASS MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

MENTAL HEALTH ▲

Everyone should have access to the therapies, treatment, care and support they need.

For too long underinvestment in prevention, early intervention and community mental health services has meant people have not had access to the support they need. This has resulted in far too many people ending up at crisis point and being admitted to the costly hospital system.

The Greens will ensure a system that provides quality services and supports for everyone who needs them, when they need them. People in our community should be able to expect the same level of care for their mental health as they do for their physical health.

The Greens will:

▲ **Increase the accessibility of the mental health system and ensure a 'no wrong door' approach** so that people can easily get help when and where they need it

▲ **Invest in prevention and community-managed services** so that people can access help when they first need it and ensure the system can meet demand

▲ **Fund co-designed and co-produced specialist services**

▲ **Provide supported housing options and sustainable tenancies for people with mental illness**

▲ **Invest in long-term locally-developed and delivered suicide prevention programs**, including in regional and remote areas

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NO WRONG DOOR

WA needs a high-quality mental health system that is easy to navigate and where there is no 'wrong door'. No matter where people go to seek help, they should be able to access treatment, therapies and supports when and where they need them.

Chronic under-funding of mental health services – particularly in the areas of prevention and community support – has left WA with a fragmented mental health system that is unbalanced, difficult to navigate, costly, and that simply does not meet people's needs. Community support has been identified as the most under-resourced type of service in WA, meeting only around 22% of current demand[1].

The Greens will shift the focus away from costly acute or crisis hospital and specialist services towards greater investment in prevention, early intervention and community support.

This is an essential shift towards a sustainable and effective mental health system that best responds to people's needs and that keeps people living well in the community[2].

The Greens will:

▲ **Increasing funding for prevention to $50 million annually[3]**

▲ **Increase investment in community-managed mental health services to $220 million annually[4]**

SERVICES THAT MEET NEED

Too often people are unable to access services that meet their specific needs and are responsive to the particular drivers of their mental health issues. We urgently need more culturally appropriate and tailored services that meet the needs of populations who are particularly vulnerable to mental health issues.

The Greens will ensure service users, families and carers have an opportunity to participate in the design and delivery of these services.

The Greens will:

▲ **Fund targeted services for the early years, parent and baby services**

▲ **Fund co-produced and co-designed specialist services** for First Nations, culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) and LGBTIQ communities, as well as people with neurodiversity, disability and older people

▲ **Fund specialist services for children who have experienced trauma** including those bereaved by suicide and those who have suffered sexual abuse

▲ **Increased services in regional and remote areas**

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SUPPORTED HOUSING

Everyone deserves a place to call home. Mental health support can prevent homelessness, and homelessness support can prevent mental health issues developing or becoming worse.

Too often WA government policies have resulted in people with acute mental illness and co-occurring issues being made homeless because they have been evicted from public housing.

The Greens will:

▲ **Provide supported housing options, wrap around supports and appropriate sustainable tenancies** for people with mental illness

▲ **Create better frameworks to ensure service providers work together** so that people who need help are identified early

▲ **Change eviction policies** to ensure people whose behaviour is a symptom of mental health issues are provided early support to retain their tenancy

SUICIDE PREVENTION & POSTVENTION

Rates of self-harm and suicide in WA continue to be alarmingly high, particularly among our young people.

It is absolutely unacceptable that suicide remains the leading cause of death of Western Australians aged between 15 and 44, and that very remote regions have suicide rates more than double that of major capital cities[5].

Suicide is ultimately preventable and it must be acknowledged and responded to as such.

The Greens will:

▲ **Fund evidence-based suicide prevention programs**, including community-level programs and targeted programs for at-risk groups

▲ **Increase investment in regional and remote suicide prevention and postvention services**

▲ **Guarantee continuity of suicide prevention services**

▲ **Mandate that suicide programs for First Nations communities be co-produced and locally delivered**

▲ **Provide specialist support services to those bereaved by suicide, particularly children**

1. https://waamh.org.au/assets/documents/systemic-advocacy/submissions-and-briefs/waamh-submission-pre-budget-submission-2019-2020.pdf
2. As recommended by the Sustainable Health Review and the 10 Year Plan.
3. Five percent of total spending in line with the Better Choices. Better Lives: Western Australian Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services Plan 2015-2025.
4. Twenty-two percent of total spending in line with the Better Choices. Better Lives: Western Australian Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services Plan 2015-2025.
5. Lifeline: Statistics on suicide in Western Australia. https://www.lifelinewa.org.au/About-Us/Fast-Facts

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