

STATE BUDGET

2022-23

HON STEPHEN MULLIGHAN MP
TREASURER

HON CHRIS PICTON MP
MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Thursday 2 June 2022

ONCE IN A GENERATION MENTAL HEALTH INVESTMENT

A once-in-a-generation investment into South Australia's mental health services is a hallmark of the Malinauskas Government's first State Budget.

A record \$294 million will be allocated to provide better treatment for mental health patients through more hospital beds, expert care and support for families.

100 new inpatient mental health beds will be delivered across the system to improve patient outcomes and help fix the ramping crisis by reducing pressure on the state's emergency departments.

Each of the 100 new inpatient beds is in a single room to provide greater security and safety for patients and staff, in an environment for patients that will best support their treatment and care.

These additional beds will provide greater capacity for paramedics to transfer patients into EDs as soon as they arrive at hospitals – under the former Government, mental health patients far too often ended up stuck waiting in ambulances as ramping hit record levels.

In addition, an extra 20 mental health community hospital in the home beds will further free up blocked emergency departments by reducing the need for people to be readmitted to EDs, with a focus on helping patients recover in their own home.

A massive boost in capacity for mental health services is another key step in fixing a system that has been put under intense pressure after red flags were repeatedly ignored by the Liberals.

The State Budget 2022-23 includes:

- **72 more** mental health beds across the metropolitan area
 - 24 more beds at Queen Elizabeth Hospital (\$53.7 million over four years)

STATE BUDGET

2022-23

- 24 more beds at Modbury Hospital (\$53.7 million over four years)
- 24 more beds at Noarlunga Hospital (\$50.4 million over four years)
- **12 more** mental health beds at the new Mount Barker Hospital (\$26 million of the \$220 million total project)
- **10 more** mental health beds at the new Women's and Children's Hospital (\$20 million out of the \$100 million additional funding)
- **6 more** mental health beds at Mount Gambier Hospital, doubling the size of the Hospital's existing mental health ward (\$11.4 million over three years)
- **20 more** community hospital in the home beds for mental health (\$12.7 million over three years)

The Malinauskas Government is making the mental health of South Australian children and teens a top priority, investing in:

- **100 new** mental health and learning support specialists to work at public primary and secondary schools, to ensure students and teachers get the help they need (\$50 million over four years)
- **6 more** specialist mental health nurses at Women's and Children's Hospital (\$3.1 million over four years out of the \$6.2 million nurses' investment)
- **5 more** child psychiatrists and **10 more** child psychologists to be recruited in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (\$7.8 million over four years)

A significant boost in community mental health funding is also being delivered through:

- More support for public community mental health teams, allowing them to reach more South Australians in crisis (\$3.1 million over four years)
- Prioritising mental health voices in the Lived Experience Leadership and Advocacy Network (\$800,000 over four years)
- SIDS and Kids SA boost to support bereaved families (\$800,000 over four years)
- Investing in the Mates in Construction program which delivers innovative and evidence-based suicide prevention and mental health programs to the building, mining, energy and construction industries (\$240,000 over four years)
- Mental health training for pharmacists to allow them to identify and respond to the early warning signs of mental ill-health (\$350,000 over four years)

Quotes attributable to Stephen Mullighan

Protecting the mental health of South Australians is crucial.

An investment into crucial mental health services will alleviate pressure on staff, patients and families.

STATE BUDGET

2022-23

Allocating \$157.8 million over four years for mental health beds at the QEH, Modbury Hospital and Noarlunga Hospital shows the Malinauskas Government's investment into a healthier future for South Australia.

Quotes attributable to Chris Picton

This funding will provide a generational increase in capacity for our overstretched mental health services.

Building 100 additional mental health inpatient beds will allow more capacity to treat more patients and relieve pressure on hospital staff and emergency departments, as we do everything possible to fix the ramping crisis left behind by the former Government.

We know that mental health patients have been caught up in ambulance ramping and bed block in hospitals, only adding to the enormous need in the community for services for people in need of mental health care.

We are delivering on our promise to ensure patients get the right care at the right time, right across the state.

Media contact: Adam Todd 0423 970 839 and Tom Angley 0431 704 801