# Bilateral Agreement for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

# Fact Sheet | May 2022

The Tasmanian and Australian Governments have signed a new bilateral agreement for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention. The agreement is a schedule to the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement which was endorsed by National Cabinet on 11 March 2022.

This agreement will see an investment, by the Australian Government, of over $46 million into Tasmania to deliver several initiatives that together will contribute to better health outcomes for people living in our State. Importantly, this work aligns with the significant mental health reform programs in Tasmania and the $108 million investment announced by the Tasmanian Government in the 2021/22 State Budget.

**Initiatives for collaboration**

The agreement provides for a range of co-funded mental health and suicide prevention initiatives, including:

* **Establishing and operating three Head to Health Adult Mental Health satellite clinics in Tasmania,** **with two likely to be located in Burnie and Devonport and one in the outer Hobart area.**
	+ This includes ongoing funding for operation of the existing Head to Health Centre in Launceston.
	+ These services are in addition to the two new Integration Hubs under development at the Peacock Centre in North Hobart and at St John’s Park in New Town, as part of the Tasmanian Mental Health Reform Program.
	+ The Integration Hubs will be co-branded as Head to Health Hubs, will form part of the Head to Health network, and care will be delivered through multidisciplinary teams including lived experience workers.
* Integrating three Head to Health Kids Hubs within three new Child and Family Learning Centres (CFLCs).
	+ This process will be undertaken flexibly to consider both Tasmania’s existing CFLC service model and alignment with the Head to Health Kids Service Model principles. The new CFLCs will be co-branded as Kids Head to Health Service Hubs.
	+ These services will provide a multi-disciplinary team approach to the care of children and align with Tasmania’s response to the review of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS).
* **Establishing and operating a new headspace site in Tasmania, and working in partnership to improve access to multidisciplinary youth mental health services in Tasmania, ensuring integration with existing services**.
	+ These services will increase access to youth mental health services in alignment with Tasmania’s youth mental health reform program which was developed in response to the CAMHS review.
* **Supporting perinatal mental health screening services, including identifying and addressing gaps in screening,** building on existing infrastructure to enhance digital capture and reporting of screening data from public antenatal and postnatal care settings, and working towards providing nationally consistent data to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.
* **Establishing and operating three eating disorders day programs** which will be integrated within the stepped system of care for eating disorder services in Tasmania and ensuring Tasmania’s residential eating disorder centre is completed through the Community Health and Hospitals Program Agreement.
* **Delivering psychosocial aftercare follow-up services to support individuals discharged from an emergency department** after a suicide attempt or suicidal crisis, in the community, for up to three months.
* **Adopting and supporting the use of the Initial Assessment and Referral (IAR) model and digital decision support tool** to support consistent intake, referral and integration across all mental health care and clinical services in Tasmania, as well as general practice.
	+ This work will include reviewing Tasmanian Health Pathways against the IAR levels of care and establishing new referral pathways as appropriate.
* **Implementing a single, statewide intake and assessment phone service** that integrates with Tasmania’s existing state-based systems.
	+ This Central Intake and Referral Service (CIRS) will be staffed by therapeutic professionals who will offer compassionate and consistent triage using the Initial Assessment and Referral tool, supporting referrals to the most appropriate local services.
	+ The CIRS will make it easier to navigate across the service system to access the right care in the right place at the right time.

These initiatives align with the Tasmanian Government’s significant mental health reform program which includes reforms to improve and expand mental health services, prioritise prevention and early intervention and empowering Tasmanians to improve their own mental health and wellbeing, and reforming CAMHS.

The initiatives included in the bilateral agreement also align with key national mental health reports and inquiries including recommendations from the Productivity Commission’s Inquiry into Mental Health and the final advice of the National Suicide Prevention Adviser.

**Next steps**

The Tasmanian and Australian Governments will work together to develop a joint implementation plan and to progress current and future mental health and suicide prevention initiatives.

The agreement will also strengthen partnerships with service delivery through increased data sharing, evaluation of services, closer integration of referral pathways and ongoing work in regional planning and commissioning of services.

As a result, the agreement will assist in achieving our long-term goals to improve timely access to care and improved mental health outcomes for our community.

For further information, please visit the Department of Health, Tasmania website at [www.health.tas.gov.au](http://www.health.tas.gov.au).

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, seek advice and support from:

A Tasmanian Lifeline 1800 98 44 34

Beyond Blue 1300 22 4636

Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800

Suicide Call Back Service 1300 659 467

Lifeline 13 11 14

MensLine Australia 1300 78 99 78

Department of Health

GPO Box 125

Hobart TAS 7001

1300 135 513

www.health.tas.gov.au