



The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Health

MEDIA RELEASE

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GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES NEW COVID-19 MENTAL HEALTH CLINICS IN VICTORIA

From Monday 14 September 2020, Victorians will have access to additional mental health support with 15 new dedicated mental health clinics opening to the public.

The clinics, announced on 17 August as part of a \$31.9 million federal government mental health package to support Victorians during the COVID-19 pandemic, have been rapidly rolled out across the state at a cost of \$26.9 million.

There will be nine *HeadtoHelp* clinics located in Greater Melbourne and six in regional Victoria. The locations are:

- **Greater Melbourne:** Berwick, Frankston, Officer, Hawthorn, Yarra Junction, West Heidelberg, Broadmeadows, Wyndham Vale, Brunswick East
- **Regional Victoria:** Warragul, Sale, Bendigo, Wodonga, Sebastopol and Norlane.

Our Government recognises that the ongoing restrictions are having a significant impact on the wellbeing and mental health of individuals and communities in Victoria, and is committed to ensuring that support is available.

These new clinics, branded with the *HeadtoHelp* logo, are a free service and, over the next 12 months, will provide a place within the community for people to access mental health care as early and as conveniently as possible.

The clinics are staffed by multi-disciplinary teams of mental health professionals which may include GPs, mental health nurses, psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers and/or other allied health workers.

The *HeadtoHelp* clinics will provide on-site mental health support, and will also connect to other mental health services in their region, including intensive mental health care or social supports, to ensure people get the help they need when they need it.

The clinics will play a key role in supporting our GPs, emergency departments, and hospitals by providing easily accessible mental health care.

The rapid establishment of the clinics has been overseen by a joint federal and state Mental Health Pandemic Response Taskforce co-chaired by Dr Ruth Vine, the Australian Government Deputy Chief Medical Officer for Mental Health, and Pam Anders, CEO Mental Health Reform Victoria.

This collaboration between the Commonwealth and Victorian governments is ensuring that the new clinics will be integrated with local services and will support other enhancements to Victoria’s mental health system.

The clinics are being delivered by the Commonwealth Government’s Primary Health Networks (PHNs) which play a critical role in commissioning mental health services at a regional level.

In addition to the clinics, \$5 million in funding is being provided to enhance existing digital and phone services for specific groups that are experiencing significant challenges during the restrictions in Victoria.

These services providers include The Butterfly Foundation, Eating Disorders Families Australia (EDFA), Q-Life, Perinatal Anxiety & Depression Australia (PANDA), and Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS) Yarning SafeNStrong helpline.

This new support builds on the more than \$500 million additional funding provided by our Government for mental health and suicide prevention during the COVID-19 pandemic, including 10 additional Medicare subsidised psychological therapy sessions for people subject to further restrictions.

We continue to demonstrate our firm commitment to the mental health and wellbeing of all Australians, with estimated annual federal expenditure on mental health services and suicide prevention estimated to be a record of \$5.7 billion in 2020-21 alone.

Anyone concerned about their mental health can visit these clinics in person or call 1800 595 212 to talk to a health professional or connect to a service near them.

More information on how to access the *HeadtoHelp* clinics and additional digital supports can also be found at health.gov.au/resources or headtohelp.org.au.

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HeadtoHelp Mental Health Clinic Locations.

Greater Melbourne	
North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network	
DPV Health	42-48 Coleraine Street Broadmeadows, Victoria, 3047
IPC Health	510 Ballan Road Wyndham Vale, Victoria, 3024
Clarity Healthcare	3/55 Nicholson Street Brunswick East, Victoria, 3057
South Eastern Melbourne Primary Health Network	
Berwick Healthcare	76 Clyde Road Berwick, Victoria, 3806
Healius t/a Young Street Medical and Dental Centre	89-97 Young Street Frankston, Victoria, 3199
Officer Medical Centre	4 Cardinia Road Officer, Victoria, 3809
Eastern Melbourne Primary Health Network	
Access Health and Community	378 Burwood Road Hawthorn, Victoria, 3122

Authorised by Greg Hunt MP, Liberal Party of Australia, Somerville, Victoria.

Access Health and Community	2444 Warburton Highway Yarra Junction, Victoria, 3797
Banyule Community Health	21 Alamein Road West Heidelberg, Victoria, 3081
Regional Victoria	
Western Victoria Primary Health Network	
Ballarat Community Health	260 Vickers Street Sebastopol, Victoria, 3356
Barwon Health	155 Princess Highway Norlane, Victoria, 3214
Murray Primary Health Network	
Bendigo Community Health Service	165-171 Hargreaves Street Bendigo, Victoria, 3550
Gateway Community Health Service	155 High Street Wodonga, Victoria, 3690
Gippsland Primary Health Network	
Warragul Specialist Centre	197-199 Sutton Street Warragul, Victoria, 3820
Inglis Medical Centre	10 Inglis Street Sale, Victoria, 3850