



Health, mental health and COVID-19 response

The McGowan Labor Government continues to make significant investments in hospitals, health and mental health services with a new \$1.9 billion boost in the 2021-22 State Budget to help address the unprecedented demand on WA's health and mental health system.

The funding boost means more services, more beds and more staff across WA hospitals, health and mental health services.

At a glance

- \$3.1 billion allocation to expand our health system, with \$1.3 billion towards improving health infrastructure, major hospital redevelopments and expansions underway across metropolitan and regional WA
- \$960 million increase to the WA Health budget to deliver more services
- \$487 million for COVID-19 response and preparedness, including hotel quarantine and vaccination
- \$495 million record boost to the Mental Health Commission for mental health investments
- \$311 million increase for contemporary community accommodation and supports
- 99 additional staff positions for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
- Additional investment in mental health, alcohol and other drug services
- Budget to deliver on commitments to improve mental health services in regional WA
- 332 new hospital beds opening and supported by 100 new doctors and 500 new nurses
- \$100 million emergency department support package which includes a multi-pronged health workforce attraction and retention strategy
- Significant investment to recruit more doctors and nurses and a new recruitment drive
- \$1.8 billion set aside to build the new Women and Babies Hospital

Boosting beds and additional staffing

Investments as part of the 2021-22 State Budget are expected to deliver 332 additional beds across the health and mental health system supported by approximately 100 new doctors and 500 new nurses working on WA hospital wards.

Of the 332 new beds opening across WA hospitals, 223 are general beds and 109 are mental health beds.

Upgrades, as part of the \$1.3 billion health infrastructure investment, will add a further 314 hospital beds, in addition to the 332 in this Budget.

Graduate nurses and midwives employed in WA hospitals will increase from 700 a year to 1,100 in 2021 and 1,200 in 2022 - delivering on a McGowan Government election commitment.

Delivering quality and modernised health infrastructure

The McGowan Government is investing more than \$1.3 billion over the next four years into significant health infrastructure, including major hospital redevelopments and expansions at hospitals and health services across the State.

Projects being progressed:

■ **New Women and Babies Hospital**

The significant investment builds on the McGowan Government's \$1.8 billion commitment towards a new Women and Babies Hospital at the QEII medical precinct, with funding already secured and the State Budget includes an additional \$5.4 million to support the development and planning.

■ **Joondalup Health Campus**

The \$256.7 million expansion to deliver more mental health treatment, more emergency department beds and inpatient beds, a new theatre, a cath lab, specialised clinic, additional parking, and upgrades to a range of services.

■ **Fremantle Hospital**

Creation of the South Metropolitan specialist mental health hub with more than 100-bed inpatient admission capacity to provide better access to expert care for patients with mental health illness in the South Metropolitan region. Fremantle Hospital buildings will be refurbished and redeveloped with completion expected in 2023.

■ **Meekatharra Hospital**

\$48.5 million new consolidated health service at the existing Meekatharra Hospital site, including acute care, emergency services, mental health, community aged care and other primary care services.

■ **Bunbury Regional Hospital**

\$200.1 million upgrade to address increasing projected demand for services in the South West region, including expanded capacity for general and mental health services.

■ **Peel Health Campus**

\$152 million redevelopment and expansion of inpatient, mental health and outpatient facilities, which will return privatised services back into public hands.

■ **Geraldton Health Campus**

\$82.3 million Geraldton Health Campus redevelopment to deliver an expanded emergency department, new intensive care unit and expanded high dependency unit, an integrated mental health unit, and essential engineering service upgrades.

First phase of the redevelopment which includes expanded car parks, new ambulance entry and reconfigured main entry is complete.

\$2 million for detailed planning and scoping works for Stage 2 of the redevelopment to co-locate St John of God private hospital on the Geraldton Health Campus site.

■ **Laverton Hospital**

\$23.47 million towards the new Laverton Hospital project.

■ **Tom Price Hospital**

\$32.8 million new facility to provide fit for purpose hospital with a modern emergency department with private interview room, consulting rooms for visiting services, new medical imaging equipment and digitally enabled telehealth services and a four-bed inpatient ward.

■ **Newman Health Service**

\$61.4 million redevelopment on track to deliver a brand new, purpose built hospital and healthcare hub with expanded emergency department, inpatient beds, an outpatient centre, medical imaging, purpose-built GP consultation spaces and two dental chairs.

■ **Critical infrastructure works and planning and design projects**

■ \$3.2 million towards the planning and design of a dedicated **Children's Hospice**

■ \$40 million towards the replacement of essential medical and imaging equipment

■ \$12.1 million to establish an Image Guided Operating Theatre at **Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital**, which will enable contemporary treatment to be provided to patients with vascular disease

■ \$22 million for critical building works

Emergency Department Support Package

A targeted \$100 million Emergency Department Support Package will be implemented to improve patient flow, reduce bed block, relieve ambulance congestion and better support the health workforce. This comprises:

- \$61.6 million for mental health ED supports, which includes:
 - \$37 million to expand the capacity of existing child and adult Community Treatment Teams and implement an Active Recovery Team pilot for tailored support for individuals with complex mental health needs who repeatedly present at EDs
 - \$24.6 million to establish new Mental Health Emergency Centres in Armadale and Rockingham
- At least 50 additional full-time equivalent staff including medical, nursing, allied health and support services;
- \$35.6 million to implement new ED staffing models, including \$4.8 million towards additional staff for patient monitoring in waiting areas at Perth Children's Hospital ED, and a targeted recruitment campaign; and
- \$2.3 million to expand the virtual emergency medicine system to improve ambulance and ED flow.

Health initiatives to support vulnerable patients and young people

- \$11.5 million to implement an Early Childhood Dental Program which will provide free assessment and oral health promotion to children from six months age
- \$10 million towards a partnership project with Sister Kate's for a new 80-bed culturally appropriate health and aged care facility for Aboriginal people
- \$8 million to support the hospital outpatient reform program to deliver contemporary outpatient care
- \$3.5 million to establish a two year pilot Health Navigator program, across WA for children in out-of-home care
- \$5 million to support progress on implementation of priority work under the Sustainable Health Review to reform and transform the WA health system

Strengthening health initiatives in the regions

Regional WA communities will benefit from a range of initiatives funded in the State Budget.

- \$19.7 million to increase the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme subsidy to \$100 per night, and to expand eligibility for patient support escorts to patients from vulnerable and disadvantaged groups as well as maternity patients
- \$10.9 million for the Royal Flying Doctor Service to refurbish and replace aircraft engines
- \$4.4 million to the WA Country Health Service to cover the shortfall in services at multipurpose sites, following the transition to the Commonwealth Home Support Program from the Home and Community Care program
- \$11.2 million towards new dental therapy centres which includes \$4.2 million to operate the adult public dental clinic at Narrogin Regional Hospital
- \$2.8 million over four years to establish women's community health services in the Kimberley, including services for women's mental health, family, domestic and sexual violence
- \$2.2 million to establish a Women's Community Health Service in the Peel region that offers health and support services and information for those experiencing mental illness, family, domestic and sexual violence or who have experienced sexual assault or childhood sexual abuse
- \$2 million for the WA Country Health Service to continue Regional Renal Support Teams
- \$6.9 million towards Pilbara Health Initiatives
- \$1.6 million for the Find Cancer Early program
- \$2.1 million towards Meet and Greet Services
- \$1.8 million for GP services to conduct cervical cancer screening and other women's primary health services at the existing Goldfields Women's Health Care Centre
- \$785,000 for a 12-month Women and Newborn Health Service pilot program delivered by Karratha's Women's Place Inc. to provide health and support services and information to women experiencing mental health concerns, domestic and sexual violence or who have experienced sexual assault or childhood sexual abuse

Delivering more mental health support

The record \$495 million additional investment results in more than \$1.114 billion allocated in 2021-22 to the Mental Health Commission to boost mental health, alcohol and other drug services - a massive 11 per cent increase from the previous year.

It represents a record increase for mental health services, to support those needing acute care and people who require longer term support, and delivers on our election commitments.

This record investment contains an additional \$311 million for community supported accommodation and supports across Western Australia, including \$135.7 million for delivering outpatient treatment services, to help people avoid hospitalisation and get the treatment and care they need in the community.

Community mental health support

Community beds provide an alternative to hospital for people who need mental health or alcohol and drug supports.

The McGowan Government is investing in services that help people become mentally well, with a focus on delivering support in community settings.

Funded initiatives:

- \$12.5 million for a purpose built 20-bed alcohol and other drug withdrawal rehabilitation facility in the Perth metropolitan area
- \$25.5 million for Step Up/Step Down facilities to provide a community mental health service and short-term residential support
- \$27.7 million for youth long-term housing and psychosocial support plus in-reach support packages to assist young people to live in the community while accessing mental health and AOD supports.

Bolstering youth mental health support

Our priority is to ensure people receive the mental health care they need, in the most appropriate settings, particularly as the demand for services continues to increase.

The funding boost also includes \$129.9 million towards youth mental health services and initiatives, and delivers on key election commitments.

- Expansion of the 'Alcohol.Think Again' Parents and Young People campaign to inform the knowledge and influence the behaviour of young people aged 12-17 to reduce alcohol-related harm
- Expansion of the Strong Spirit Strong Mind program for Aboriginal youth into regional areas to help prevent the early uptake of alcohol and drug use
- Establishment of a 10-bed youth-specific Step Up/Step Down community mental health service in the Perth metropolitan area, with 24/7 psychosocial and clinical supports
- 30 psychosocial support packages for young people aged 16 to 24 with mental health, alcohol and other drug issues living in the metropolitan area, to assist them to live and participate in their community
- Expanding the Youth Community Assessment and Treatment Team outreach service from the south metropolitan to the wider Perth metropolitan area
- 99 additional staff positions for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service - 35 positions funded through the Mental Health Commission and a further 64 positions to be provided by the Child and Adolescent Health Service
- Providing Drug Education Support Services at five metropolitan and seven regional Youth Accommodation Support Services
- Establishing a new youth mental health long-term housing and support program in the Perth metropolitan area.

Strengthening mental health initiatives in the regions

The McGowan Government is committed to responding to the mental health needs of all Western Australians. New mental health services funded in the budget will make modern, integrated care more accessible to people living in regional communities across the State.

- \$17.6 million towards social and emotional well-being services for Aboriginal people in the Kimberley, Pilbara, Goldfields, Mid-West and South West regions

- \$14.8 million for a South Hedland Step Up-Step Down facility to provide a community mental health service and short-term residential support
- \$8.6 million to fund regional Methamphetamine Action Plan initiatives, including expanding Community Alcohol and Other Drug services in the Peel region to build on the McGowan Government's comprehensive \$473 million Methamphetamine Action Plan
- \$9.2 million to extend the Strong Spirit Strong Mind public education program
- \$1.7 million for Active Recovery Teams in the Wheatbelt and Mid-West, supporting people in their recovery journey to stay well in the community following a hospital stay
- Extending the Mental Health/Police co-response program into regional areas

Regional communities will also benefit from the \$31.7 million invested to expand State-wide eating disorder treatment programs.

Other key initiatives

- \$5.6 million for upgrades at Bentley Hospital and within regional Acute Psychiatric Units located in Broome, Albany, Kalgoorlie and Bunbury
- \$49.1 million to increase capacity through establishment of the Bentley Secure Extended Care Unit and Mental Health Emergency Centres

COVID-19 response and recovery to keep WA safe and strong

Western Australia's health response to the COVID-19 pandemic has led the country and the world.

Its financial discipline in the first term of Government took significant effort, but it has been crucial in giving WA the financial capacity to respond to a one-in-one-hundred-year crisis.

The McGowan Government has committed a massive \$9 billion to the COVID-19 response and recovery, to keep WA safe and strong and continue to fund our world-leading pandemic response.

- Investment includes \$1 billion of additional support provided in the 2021-22 Budget
- More than \$1 billion has been spent to date on frontline services to keep us safe including hotel quarantine, COVID-19 testing, medical equipment, the vaccine roll-out and border controls
- Roll-out of another \$4.5 billion of response, and social and economic recovery initiatives continues

The 2021-22 State Budget includes \$1 billion in additional support comprising:

- \$605 million with a focus on delivering the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out and to equip our frontline police and health services and community health and safety initiatives such as enhanced school cleaning and public transport;
- \$219 million in support to businesses including small business grants and industry assistance; and
- \$182 million in economic recovery and other initiatives.

In 2021-22, an additional \$328 million has already been allocated to fund frontline services in the coming Budget, with a further \$800 million set aside for unforeseen costs, including \$240 million specifically for WA Health.

The COVID-19 response to date includes \$2.7 billion committed to support WA businesses and households. The McGowan Government will continue to provide further COVID-19 support as required.

More than \$4.5 billion in initiatives continue to rollout as part of our plan to drive our response and social and economic recovery. This includes the hundreds of projects as part of the WA Recovery Plan to drive industry development, investing in schools and TAFEs, build community infrastructure and much more.