

Labor

Liberal

Greens

Nationals

The Labor party's mental health policy does not commit to targets for prevention and community support, with new mental health prevention spending of just \$4m.

Key spending promises include hospital-based emergency centres and almost half of the funds committed allocated to community treatment. These move WA away from the optimal mix of services set in out in the Western Australian Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services Plan 2015-2025.

The policy has a strong focus on young people, however most initiatives are clinical treatment, with no mental health specific prevention for youth.

Community supports for young people are welcome, however these are very modestly funded and will not meet established demand.

There are no community support initiatives for adults. Despite peer support being referred to in the narrative there is minimal evidence of this in the detail.

One Prevent Support Heal initiative is supported – Aboriginal Social and Emotional Wellbeing Programs to be delivered by Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services.

The Liberal's mental health policy commits to the target for prevention and has the most detailed costed mental health prevention initiatives. It also commits strong funding for suicide prevention. However, the overall prevention funding committed falls short of the targets set out in the Western Australian Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services Plan 2015-2025.

The policy is almost exclusively focused on community supports and prevention initiatives, providing a strong foundation for moving towards a balanced mental health system in WA.

It includes a range of Prevent Support Heal initiatives focused on building community support options including personal recovery programs, neighbourhood drop-in centres in rural and remote areas, advocacy services and employment specialists, all called for by people with lived experience.

Peer support is a strong aspect of the policy with peer and family crisis and recovery centres and a peer warm line. Supported accommodation and a solid commitment to funding the needs of young people. Mental health workforce development is also a key initiative of the policy.

The Green's mental health policy commits to targets and allocates close to the level of funding needed to reach the prevention and community support targets set out in the Western Australian Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services Plan 2015-2025. The Green's policy narrative strongly articulates a need to reform the mental health system, and this is evident in the commitments made.

The policy has a strong focus on suicide prevention, including responding to the range of needs experienced by different groups of people including children, rural and remote and First Nations.

The policy focus on young people needs further development to build on an initiative to fix the gap between schools and mental health services.

The Greens have the only policy to include a focus on children, and on the needs of a range of different groups of people who have specific needs such as people in the justice system, people from various cultural backgrounds and people with disability.

Recovery focus, peer workforce, and lived experience leadership are policy strengths.

The National's mental health responses notes the current shortfall in investment in prevention and community supports, and states a commitment to the WA Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Services Plan 2015-2025. However, the funding committed falls far short of the targets specified in The Plan, especially for prevention.

The policy includes a range of Prevent Support Heal community support initiatives. These include funding for Aboriginal wellbeing and cultural programs, rural and remote neighbourhood centres, and Individual Placement and Support employment programs for adults and youth in regional WA.

Peer support options are also included and there is a very strong focus on rural and remote initiatives to close the existing gap in access to support. The policy includes modest funding for prevention initiatives aimed at young people; though these need additional funding committed.

The policy contains only a small number of specific strategies, with only modest funding for most proposed programs.

Dial score: red

Dial score: green

Dial score: green

Dial score: orange