



MEDIA RELEASE

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## Real solutions to balance WA's mental health system ahead of State Election

### Media Statement: The Western Australian Association for Mental Health

A warm line to prevent a person hitting crisis and seamless community recovery pathways to reduce expensive emergency department presentations are some of the costed solutions to give people dignity and respect for their mental health challenges announced by the Western Australian Association for Mental Health (WAAMH) last night.

The State Election Platform Manifesto details real solutions by real people which will be used for the Prevent Support Heal campaign to call on all political parties to adopt and fund as election commitments ahead of the State Election in March 2021.

Other models in the manifesto include a peer-led crisis and recovery centre for people with high acuity and multiple unmet needs and peer and family recovery centres; and community based neighbourhood centres that foster early intervention and recovery in rural and remote areas for people with mental health challenges.

WAAMH chief executive officer Taryn Harvey said the models released last night were based on the stories of people who have experienced the WA mental health system through a series of co-design workshops and engagement.

"The solutions focus on urgently needed Government funding into community mental health and prevention services that keep people well before reaching crisis," she said.

"For too long people with mental health challenges have been driven to the crisis end of the mental health system, which is extremely distressing, particularly for young people and their families.

"This is because Mark McGowan and his Government have failed to invest in the community support and prevention end of the system that keeps people well and out of hospital in the first place – this is something they are required to do.

"Over the past several years and through a recent co-design workshop process, we asked people exactly what models of support they want the McGowan Government to fund."

**Read here: [WAAMH's full State Election Platform.](#)**

Prevent, Support, Heal  
Authorised by Taryn Harvey, CEO  
Western Australian Association for Mental Health  
1 Nash Street, Perth, WA 6000  
08 6246 3000  
[preventsupportheal.org.au](http://preventsupportheal.org.au)  
[preventsupportheal@waamh.org.au](mailto:preventsupportheal@waamh.org.au)



An initiative of your community  
mental health peak body



**WAAMH**

Western Australian Association  
for Mental Health



To learn more, visit the Prevent Support Heal website: [preventsupportheal.org.au](http://preventsupportheal.org.au)

#### Fact Box:

Community supports are non-clinical supports that advance people's personal recovery, rights and opportunities. They are empowering, offer hope and include people's social context – trauma, income, community connection, culture or housing – not just a focus on symptoms. They include peer support, personal recovery programs, groups, family and carer support, housing and employment programs.

#### WAAMH calls on the Government to:

- Increase investment in prevention from 1% to 5% of the mental health budget
- Funding to community mental health services to increase five-fold – from \$48 million to \$250 million

#### Further facts:

- We need five times as much community support as we have now.
- Community support can only meet 20% of demand
- Only 1 in 5 people who need community support can access it
- Read here: [the Government's Mental Health Plan](#)

#### Media contacts

##### Taryn Harvey

Chief Executive Officer

WA Association for Mental Health

08 6246 3000

[THarvey@waamh.org.au](mailto:THarvey@waamh.org.au)

##### Kerry Hawkins

President

WA Association for Mental Health

08 6246 3000

[president@waamh.org.au](mailto:president@waamh.org.au)

##### Sarah Quinton

Campaign Manager

WA Association for Mental Health

0439 439 233

[SQuinton@waamh.org.au](mailto:SQuinton@waamh.org.au)