



WAAMH

Western Australian Association
for Mental Health

Make Mental Health Count Western Australian Election 2017

Analysis of mental health commitments
from the major political parties



#ReformMentalHealth



#HomelsWhereTheHealthIs



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About WAAMH

The Western Australian Association for Mental Health (WAAMH) was incorporated in 1966 and is the peak body representing the community-managed mental health sector in Western Australia. With around 150 organisational and individual members, our vision is that as a human right, every one of us who experiences mental health issues has the resources and support needed to recover, lead a good life and contribute as active citizens.

WAAMH advocates for effective public policy on mental health issues, delivers workforce training and development and promotes positive attitudes to mental health and recovery. Further information on WAAMH can be found at <http://www.waamh.org.au>.

Our approach

In January 2017, we wrote to the leaders of the four major political parties contesting the Western Australian state election. We provided them with a copy of our [Election Policy Platform and Pre-budget Submission: Make Mental Health Count 2017](#), asked them to support the core priority areas detailed in the document, and requested a written copy of their party's mental health policy.

The parties were also invited to send a representative to our pre-election forum held on 8 February 2017. The purpose of the forum was to enable people with lived experience of mental health problems, their families and mental health service providers to directly express their priorities and to ask questions of party representatives. The meeting also provided a public opportunity for each major party's spokesperson to outline their mental health policy and election commitments.

The Election Policy Platform and Pre-budget Submission: Make Mental Health Count 2017 identifies five priority areas that require urgent action to improve the mental health of Western Australians (refer Appendix A).

A written response to our Election Policy Platform and Pre-budget Submission was received from The Hon. Mark McGowan MLA (Labor leader). No other written responses were received.






All parties were represented at our pre-election forum. Representatives did not reveal any new policies, but they did listen to community views and answered questions. The Minister for Mental Health The Hon. Andrea Mitchell (Liberal), Shadow Minister for Mental Health The Hon. Stephen Dawson (Labor), Member for Mining and Pastoral Region The Hon. Jacqui Boydell (Nationals), and Ms Alison Xamon (Greens candidate and Spokesperson for Mental Health) attended, and spoke about their views and vision for mental health reform in Western Australia.


Please note, the information in this document is current as of 8 March 2017.

Overview of mental health commitments against our core election asks

The table below provides an overview of each of the political party's commitments to addressing our five core election priorities.

This information has been gathered from correspondence from the political parties, party election policy documents, statements made at pre-election forums, and media releases and reports.



Core election ask				
 <p>1. Resource and implement the 10 Year Plan focusing on prevention, promotion, earlier intervention and community-based services: specify and publicise targets and indicators to deliver and resource the 10 Year Plan; increase the proportion of the mental health budget spent on prevention; expand community support services.</p>	<p>SOME ACTION COMMITTED</p> <p>Will ensure that the work of the Mental Health Commission is focused on the implementation of the 10 Year Plan.</p>	<p>SOME ACTION COMMITTED</p> <p>The 10 Year Plan will remain in place.</p>	<p>SOME ACTION COMMITTED</p> <p>Will continue to support the 10 Year Plan and its implementation.</p>	<p>SUPPORTED IN FULL</p> <p>The Greens state their continued support for the continued resourcing and implementation of the 10 Year Plan. They explicitly state commitment to prevention, promotion, early intervention, community-based services, and the provision of a mix of services including community based services.</p>

 <p>#ReformMentalHealth</p> <p>2. Reform the system, placing consumers, carers and family members at its centre, breaking down silos and promoting recovery: integrate consumer and carer expertise through a capability plan and innovation fund; invest in community mental health capability with an industry support and transition plan.</p>	<p>LIMITED OR NO COMMITMENT</p> <p>Are committed to establishing two 'Recovery Colleges' in Waneroo and near Royal Perth Hospital.</p>	<p>LIMITED OR NO COMMITMENT</p>	<p>LIMITED OR NO COMMITMENT</p>	<p>SOME ACTION COMMITTED</p> <p>Will enable people with mental health problems to have a significant say in their individual treatment and care, including the opportunity to give informed consent for their treatment.</p> <p>Will increase recognition and support for carers of people with a mental illness.</p> <p>Provide integrated and coordinated services including health, housing, education, employment programs and job opportunities for people with mental illness.</p>
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 <p>#HomesWhereTheHealthIs</p> <p>3. Increase access to secure homes with recovery supports: a whole of government housing investment plan with a specific mental health stream; immediate additional funding to expand the supply and range of flexible, individualised community based housing with linked supports.</p>	<p>LIMITED OR NO COMMITMENT</p>	<p>LIMITED OR NO COMMITMENT</p>	<p>LIMITED OR NO COMMITMENT</p>	<p>SOME ACTION COMMITTED</p> <p>Will provide a range of supported accommodation options to meet people's individual needs.</p> <p>Will ensure adoption by Housing Authority of supportive housing policy to ensure people living in public housing, many with complex needs, also have 'wrap-around' services relevant to their situation; disability and mental health services; and housing appropriate to their needs.</p>
 <p>#ChangeCLMIA</p> <p>4. Change how the justice system deals with people with mental health problems: reform the CLMIA Act and end mandatory sentencing for people with mental health problems.</p>	<p>SOME ACTION COMMITTED</p> <p>Are committed to a range of changes to the CLMIA Act - with at least some commitment made to four out of the five key urgent key reforms identified by the sector.</p>	<p>LIMITED OR NO COMMITMENT</p> <p>The Liberal Party has not responded to repeated requests for its policy outlining which reforms it intends to progress should it form government.</p>	<p>LIMITED OR NO COMMITMENT</p>	<p>SUPPORTED IN FULL</p> <p>Committed to all five most urgent CLMIA reforms identified by the sector in full, including flexibility amongst judiciary orders and procedural fairness. Will introduce a private members' bill to reform CLMIA if there is no timely bill by major parties.</p> <p>Will repeal mandatory sentencing provisions.</p>

 <p>5. Improve access to the NDIS for people with psychosocial disability: meet the target of 6000 people with psychosocial disability accessing the NDIS in WA; enable the most disadvantaged mental health consumers to access NDIS supports through genuine, face-to-face engagement.</p>	<p>LIMITED OR NO COMMITMENT</p> <p>Labor's position on WA's future disability services delivery model has not been announced.</p>	<p>LIMITED OR NO COMMITMENT</p> <p>Are committed to a WA NDIS administered by the WA Government.</p>	<p>LIMITED OR NO COMMITMENT</p>	<p>SUPPORTED IN FULL</p> <p>Support meeting a minimum target of 6000 participants with psychosocial disability; with access facilitated through face to face engagement.</p> <p>Committed to ensuring that the WA NDIS psychosocial component is co-designed with consumers and families, including with a psychosocial representative on the WA NDIS state reference group.</p> <p>Will initiate and support legislation, actions to provide equitable support and services for people experiencing psycho-social conditions and mental health difficulties.</p> <p>Call for WA to suspend and renegotiate the bilateral agreement between the Barnett Government and the Federal Government.</p>
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Mental health election commitments of Western Australian political parties

This information has been gathered from correspondence from the political parties, party election policy documents, statements made at pre-election forums, and media releases and reports.

Announcement / policy				
<p>System-wide reform</p>	<p>Continued funding of independent and systemic advocacy.</p> <p>Retain the Mental Health Commission and a stand-alone position of Mental Health Minister.</p> <p>Review the provision of mental health services as part of the Sustainable Health Review.</p> <p>Ensure that the work of the Mental Health Commission is focused on the implementation of the 10 Year Plan.</p>	<p>The 10 Year Plan will remain in place.</p> <p>Retain the Mental Health Commission and a stand-alone position of Mental Health Minister.</p> <p>Oversee the staged divestment of the out-dated and inadequate Graylands hospital, to be replaced by contemporary services across the State.</p>	<p>Continue to support the 10 Year Plan and its implementation.</p> <p>Build Tele-health services to enable rural and remote people to get support they need.</p> <p>Amend eligibility for the Patient Assistance Travel Scheme to Include coverage for allied health services (out-patient department referred).</p>	<p>Enable people with mental health problems to have a significant say in their individual treatment and care, including the opportunity to give informed consent for their treatment.</p> <p>Recognise and promote the importance of continuity of care and follow up services.</p> <p>Increase recognition and support for carers of people with a mental illness.</p> <p>Improve the provision of mental health services in regional, rural and remote areas.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Prevention</p>	<p>\$400K over three years for Tier 3 Youth Mental Health suicide prevention in the Peel Region.</p> <p>Work with Lifeline WA to ensure a sustainable future for the service provider in WA.</p> <p>0.1FTE of Level 3 teacher time per school to oversee the delivery of evidence based mental health programs in schools, plus online support for school staff managing students with mental health difficulties.</p> <p>\$100K over three years for the NRL's State of Mind program to be implemented at local rugby league clubs around WA.</p> <p>.</p>			<p>Fund the delivery of mental health and well-being education programs, including school-based, workplace and community programs.</p> <p>Increase funding for specialist prevention and early intervention services for youth.</p> <p>Provide specialist services for the early years, including parent and baby services.</p> <p>Provide specialist support services for children who have experienced trauma.</p> <p>Fund evidence-based suicide prevention programs, including community-level programs and targeted programs for at-risk groups.</p> <p>Provide specialist support services to those bereaved by suicide, particularly children.</p> <p>Fund rigorous research into suicide risk and protective factors.</p>
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<p>Community support services</p>	<p>'Recovery Colleges' in Waneroo and near Royal Perth Hospital.</p> <p>\$80,000 to help mental health support organisation Growing Change expand its urban farm project into Melville.</p>			<p>Provide integrated and coordinated services including health, housing, education, employment programs and job opportunities for people with mental illness.</p> <p>Provide a range of supported accommodation options to meet people's individual needs.</p>
<p>Community treatment and community bed-based services</p>	<p>8 sub acute beds in Geraldton.</p> <p>\$9.35m for a 10-bed sub-acute step-up, step-down mental health facility in Kalgoorlie.</p> <p>A sub-acute step-up, step-down mental health facility in Karratha.</p> <p>\$9.1m for a 10-bed sub-acute step-up, step-down mental health facility in Bunbury.</p> <p>20 additional sub-acute beds to be allocated based on need.</p> <p>\$5M to develop a new integrated youth health and mental health hub In Peel.</p>	<p>10-bed sub-acute step-up, step-down mental health facility in Geraldton.</p> <p>\$8m for a 6-bed sub-acute step-up, step-down mental health facility in Kalgoorlie.</p> <p>Already in progress:</p> <p>6-bed sub-acute step-up, step-down mental health facility in Karratha.</p> <p>6-bed sub-acute step-up, step-down mental health facility in Broome.</p> <p>10-bed sub-acute step-up, step-down mental health facility in Bunbury.</p> <p>\$5M to support the development of the Peel Youth Medical Service Health Hub.</p>	<p>Provision of subacute (step-up step-down) accommodation in association with every regional hospital that has an inpatient mental health unit.</p> <p>A sub-acute step-up, step-down mental health facility in Kalgoorlie.</p>	<p>Provide an appropriate and adequate mix of community-based and inpatient clinical treatment services that deliver a broad range of culturally appropriate care options including crisis, acute, non-acute and ongoing care.</p>

<p>Hospital-based services</p>	<p>25-30 at acute care beds at Joondalup Health Campus.</p> <p>12 acute care beds at Geraldton Hospital.</p> <p>8-13 acute care beds to be allocated based on need.</p> <p>Mental Health Observation Areas at Royal Perth Hospital and Geraldton Hospital.</p>	<p>25-30 at acute care beds at Joondalup Health Campus.</p> <p>12 acute care beds at Geraldton Hospital.</p> <p>4-bed Mental Health Observation Area at Geraldton Hospital.</p> <p>4-bed Hospital in the Home service from Geraldton Hospital.</p> <p>\$1m for a youth Hospital in the Home mental health service from Peel Health Campus.</p>		<p>Provide an appropriate and adequate mix of community-based and inpatient clinical treatment services that deliver a broad range of culturally appropriate care options including crisis, acute, non-acute and ongoing care.</p> <p>Improve the provision of emergency and crisis response.</p>
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Specialised services	Restoring funding to the Transcultural Mental Health Service.			Re-establishment of a statewide Transcultural mental health unit via a hub and spoke model. Expand and increase the availability of services for people with co-morbidity and complex needs.
Justice system	Committed to a range of changes to the CLMIA Act – with at least some commitment made to four out of the five key urgent key reforms identified by the sector.			Committed to all of the five most urgent CLMIA reforms identified by the sector in full, including flexibility amongst judiciary orders and procedural fairness. Will introduce a private members' bill to reform CLMIA if there is no timely bill introduced by the major parties. Will repeal mandatory sentencing provisions.

Analysis of mental health election commitments

The Western Australian election is to be held on 11 March 2017. As of 8 March 2017 Labor, the Liberals and the Greens have released their full mental health policies.

Labor

The Labor 2017 Mental Health Policy supports community connectedness and recovery, and recognises the need for mental health programs in schools, crisis support and suicide prevention, with a significant focus on young people in the Peel region.

However, the policy has too much emphasis on acute and sub-acute services. Particularly problematic is the lack of attention to building and expanding vital community-based supports across the state to meet people's needs close to where they live and work, and to reduce demand for acute services. Nor is there any indication of addressing the need for real community-based housing options with linked mental health supports.

Labor also proposes two community-based recovery colleges. However, WAAMH is concerned that Labor appears to have identified an eastern state-based provider when a local model is already in development.

Labor has also committed to reforming the *Criminal Law (Mentally Impaired Accused) Act 1996* if elected.

Also missing from Labor's mental health policy is a specific commitment to resource and implement the 10 Year Plan and a focus on whole of system reform and to rebalance the mental health system to keep people living well in the community.

Liberal

While in government over the past eight years the Liberals have delivered substantial and long awaited mental health reforms. The significant increase in mental health services, progress in partnering with people with lived experience, the enactment of contemporary mental health legislation, the release of the Western Australia Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services Plan 2015-2025, and its commitment to providing equitable support to people with disability through the NDIS are some of its achievements.

However, WAAMH is concerned that the 10 Year Plan's vision is at risk. The most recent budget and forward estimates prioritised acute services and cut rather than increased funds for prevention. The Plan identified community support services as the most under-resourced segment of WA's mental health system, with just 20 percent of demand for these services being met in 2014.

However, the budget cut \$6 million from community support services, with a 5 percent cut over the forward estimates. The increase to community support hours stated in the Plan have been delayed, as has the development of a ten-year information and communication technology plan, while the expansion of local recovery services has not commenced.

The Liberal 2017 Mental Health Policy does little to allay WAAMH's concerns, as it similarly focuses on acute and sub-acute services with no mention of increasing community-based supports or community-based housing options.

During the election campaign the Liberals have made one announcement about community treatment and community bed-based services, with the promise of 10-bed sub-acute step-up, step-down mental health facility in Geraldton. They have also re-committed in the Mental Health Policy to the six-bed sub-acute step-up, step-down mental health facility in Kalgoorlie.

They have committed significant funds to a specialist youth health and mental health service in the Peel region.

All remaining announcements have focussed on hospital-based services. There has been no mention of increasing community support service initiatives as indicated in the 10 Year Plan.

Also of significant, ongoing concern is the delay in reform of the *Criminal Law (Mentally Impaired Accused) Act 1996* – a broken 2013 election commitment. While a review of the Act has occurred, the Review excluded from its Terms of Reference some of the most pressing human rights concerns. Furthermore, despite significant ongoing community concern the Liberal Party has not responded to repeated requests for its policy outlining which reforms it intends to progress should it form government.

Nationals

The WA Nationals have made very few comments about mental health during the election campaign. However, its commitments for the provision of a step-up step-down service in association with every regional hospital that has an inpatient mental health unit, with a specific commitment in Kalgoorlie, are welcomed. Although there was no specific mention of mental health allied health services, amending eligibility for the Patient Assistance Travel Scheme to include coverage for allied health services, and building tele-health services, will assist in enabling rural and remote people to get the health support they need.

Greens

The Greens (WA) are the only party to specify in its policies the necessity of community-based supports, community-based housing options, and wrap-around supports for public housing tenants; and to meet in full WAAMH's core requests regarding the NDIS .

The Greens (WA) 2017 Mental Health Policy outlines detailed measures to improve access to services and support for people experiencing mental health problems, and their families and carers. There is a strong focus on prevention and early intervention, suicide prevention, and coordination and integration to address whole-person needs. It includes improving consumer and carer rights; supported accommodation options and addressing homelessness amongst people with mental health issues; an indication of system rebalancing with emphasis on increased funding for promotion, prevention and early response, including suicide prevention; specific mention of rural and remote areas; and proposes the repeal of mandatory sentencing and the overhaul of the *Criminal Law (Mentally Impaired Accused) Act 1996*.

The Greens (WA) Housing Policy 2017 proposes the adoption of a supportive housing policy to ensure people living in public housing, many of whom have complex needs, are also provided with 'wrap-around' services relevant to their situation, including disability and mental health services.

The Greens (WA) Disability Policy 2017 recognises that psycho-social conditions and mental health difficulties can also be disabilities, and proposes to initiate and support legislation and actions that provide equitable support and services for people experiencing psycho-social conditions and mental health difficulties, and to ensure that there is no disadvantage for Western Australians with a disability, irrespective of funding and delivery models for services.

Appendix A: WAAMH Election Policy Platform and Pre-budget Submission

1 **Resource and implement the Western Australia Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services Plan 2015-2025 (the Plan), refocusing investment to prevention, promotion, earlier intervention and community-based services.**

- ✓ Specify and publicise targets and indicators to deliver and resource the Plan, within the first 100 days of a new government.
- ✓ Increase the proportion of the mental health budget spent on prevention from 1% to 2% in the 2017-18 budget, to 4 % by the end of 2020, and 5% by 2025.
- ✓ Expand community support services across the state from the current 842,000 hours of support to 3.2 million hours of support by the end of 2020.



#BackthePlan

2 **Enable recovery by reforming the system, breaking down silos and placing consumers, carers and family members at the centre.**

- ✓ Integrate consumer and carer expertise through a capability plan and innovation fund.
- ✓ Invest in community mental health capability with an industry support and transition plan.



#ReformMentalHealth

3 **Increase access to secure homes with recovery supports.**

- ✓ A whole of government housing investment plan with a specific mental health stream.
- ✓ Immediate additional funding to expand the supply and range of flexible, individualised community based housing with linked supports.



#HomesWhereTheHealthIs

4 **Reform how the justice system deals with people with mental health problems.**

- ✓ Reform the *Criminal Law (Mentally Impaired Accused) Act 1996* (CLMIA Act) and end mandatory sentencing for people with mental health problems.



#ChangeCLMIA

5 **Improve access to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) for people with psychosocial disability.**

- ✓ Meet the target of 6000 people with psychosocial disability accessing the NDIS in WA.
- ✓ Enable the most disadvantaged mental health consumers to access NDIS supports through genuine, face-to-face engagement.



#NDIS