

Mental health, alcohol and other drugs

Health Budget 2024-25

\$457 million to strengthen mental health, alcohol and drugs services

Mental health, alcohol, and other drugs services remain a top priority for the Queensland Government.

In 2024-25, the Queensland Government is investing **\$457 million** into mental health, alcohol and other drugs as part of *Better Care Together* funding commitment.

The funding will further support the state's mental health, alcohol and other drugs services, deliver an additional **92 beds**, strengthen our workforce, develop new strategies across the state and promote mental health and wellbeing in 2024-25.



Strengthening care and facilities

We are allocating **\$320.7 million** to strengthen mental health, alcohol and other drugs care and the facilities needed to deliver them. This funding will be used to expand bed capacity and deliver new mental health, alcohol and other drugs services, including support for new parents, children, adolescents and young people.

We're expanding existing programs and establishing new ones to ensure comprehensive care for everyone, from children and young people, adults and older people facing mental health challenges.

Key initiatives include:

- a specialised youth hub in Cairns offering a **10-bed** residential program in a new purpose-built centre alongside non-residential support options, with a particular focus on delivering culturally safe services for First Nations youth
- more residential alcohol and other drugs withdrawal and rehabilitation services for adults in Ipswich and Bundaberg, providing **46 new beds** in Ipswich and **28 new beds** in Bundaberg. This ensures easier access to appropriate care for those in need, regardless of location
- expanding the "Together in Mind" program for mothers, along with the addition of new perinatal mental health beds, starting with an additional **2 beds** at Catherine's House, South Brisbane, in 2024-25
- innovative, specialist care for people of all ages experiencing eating disorders. This includes the development of new services in the Darling Downs, West Moreton and Metro South areas. The investment will further support existing services in Cairns and Hinterland, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Townsville, along with the Queensland Eating Disorder Service, which provides vital statewide specialist support
- public residential treatment beds for people experiencing eating disorders will also continue to be funded at Wandi Nerida, located on the Sunshine Coast
- enhanced specialised services will be provided to offer better treatment and care for people with mental illness who interact with the justice system.





Crisis support

We are allocating **\$61.6 million** to respond to mental health crisis and suicidality.

Key initiatives include:

- new Crisis Support Spaces in parallel with emergency departments. These dedicated spaces will provide care for people experiencing mental health crisis, offering an alternative to emergency department environments
- a new Crisis Stabilisation Unit will be established at The Prince Charles Hospital. It will provide short-term assessment and stabilisation for individuals in crisis, along with a short-stay mental health facility – a total of **6 additional beds** and 6 dedicated chairs.

“Having someone with lived experience working closely with people using our services – someone who knows what they are going through – really helps to support their recovery journey; as peer workers we can relate. If you can see someone who has come out the other end, there is hope.”

Advanced peer worker

Oasis, a crisis support space at Hervey Bay Hospital



Keeping people well

We will provide **\$31.3 million** to promote mental health and wellbeing initiatives, social initiatives that improve mental health and wellbeing, and alcohol and other drugs responses beyond the health system. This includes a whole-of-government Trauma Strategy led by the Queensland Mental Health Commission.



Expanded initiatives

- **\$8.5 million** is allocated to improve mental health, alcohol and other drugs workforce capability. This includes the establishment of a new Allied Health Graduate Program, which supports graduates to develop and apply their skills in mental health and alcohol and other drugs services
- **\$13.1 million** to deliver digital solutions to mental health, alcohol and other drugs care and support
- **\$14.5 million** for improved mental health, alcohol and other drugs services with First Nations peoples
- **\$7.5 million** to strengthen mental health, alcohol and other drugs service quality to reduce harm and improve outcomes.

