

Media Release

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP
Premier



Tuesday, 29 June 2021

MENTAL HEALTH FUNDING BOOSTS SUPPORT FOR YOUNG CARERS

The Andrews Labor Government is giving young carers the extra support they need through a major funding boost for the Satellite Foundation.

The Government will provide an \$11.98 million funding boost to help the Foundation further expand its range of programs and support services. Young people will be engaged throughout the process to help ensure all activities are age appropriate, accessible and effective.

The Foundation will also partner with schools to deliver programs and resources that encourage conversations about mental illness and its impact on the mental health of young carers and families.

Significantly expanding the reach of these programs through schools will help more young Victorians and their families – especially those in rural and regional Victoria.

The not-for-profit organisation delivers programs and assistance for children and young people up to the age of 25 who have a parent or family member living with a mental illness or psychological distress.

It helps young carers by providing tailored information and support through online and face-to-face programs as well as activities that foster creativity such as photography, art and music workshops.

The Foundation also offers respite activities and camps which encourage peer support and ongoing connection for program participants.

The Government's funding boost comes after the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System identified that one in four children live with a parent or carer who has a mental illness or psychological distress.

Without support, these children and young people are at greater risk of developing their own mental health issues.

The *Victorian Budget 2021/22* invested a record \$3.8 billion in mental health and wellbeing services and support, including \$93 million to provide dedicated help for families and carers.

Quotes attributable to Premier Daniel Andrews

"These young Victorians bear responsibilities well beyond their years – looking after loved ones with mental illness. This investment will give them the support and care they need."

"We're implementing every single recommendation of the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System – because every single one will help change lives and save lives."

Quote attributable to the Minister for Mental Health James Merlino

"The Satellite Foundation connects young carers with similar experiences so that they know they are not alone, as well as offering them programs and services to help with their own mental health."