

Media Release

The Hon Gabrielle Williams MP
Minister for Mental Health
Minister for Treaty and First Peoples



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UPGRADED MENTAL HEALTH FACILITIES FOR YOUNG VICTORIANS

The Andrews Labor Government is ensuring young people in central and south-eastern Victoria have access to the mental health services they need, with designs revealed for upgrades to three community-based youth centres.

Minister for Mental Health Gabrielle Williams today released designs to refurbish and modernise existing Youth Prevention and Recovery Care (YPARC) centres in Bendigo, Dandenong and Frankston.

As a key recommendation from the *Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System*, YPARC services provide flexible, around-the clock clinical care for young people aged 16-25 – reducing pressure on hospitals by providing early intervention care, and an alternative to hospital admission with recovery-focused treatment.

The facility designs reveal the exterior, internal fit-outs and outdoor areas, which have been carefully considered to create a welcoming and home-like environment to support young people to receive the contemporary and appropriate care they need on their recovery journey.

The designs include main lounge and living areas, kitchen and outdoor areas - with barbecue spaces and a sensory courtyard to promote communal living both indoors and out, encouraging rest and recovery as well as support for family visits.

Delivered by the Victorian Health Building Authority (VHBA), construction on the upgrades is expected to get underway in late 2022 and be completed by early 2024.

The upgrades are part of an unprecedented \$3.8 billion investment in the *Victorian Budget 2021/22* which also includes five new YPARC services in Greater Ballarat, Greater Geelong, Greater Shepparton, Heidelberg and Traralgon.

Quote attributable to Minister for Mental Health and Member for Dandenong Gabrielle Williams

"We're rebuilding our mental health system from the ground up to make sure all Victorians in crisis get the support they need, with facilities that are designed to create a welcoming, safe and therapeutic environment."

Quote attributable to Member for Bendigo East Jacinta Allan

"This investment means more young people in Bendigo will receive appropriate treatment and care close to their family, support networks and local community – which we know delivers better outcomes as they recover."

Quote attributable to Member for Bendigo West Maree Edwards

"We're delivering a reformed mental health system that works for all Victorians, including upgrading facilities in Bendigo so young regional Victorians can access the mental health services they deserve."

Quote attributable to Member for Frankston Paul Edbrooke

"These centres will ensure young people in Frankston are supported through their recovery journey with the best possible facilities."

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