

Media Release

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



Monday, 27 March 2023

WALK-IN AT BRIMBANK MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING LOCAL

The Andrews Labor Government is getting on and delivering a new mental health and wellbeing system that supports all Victorians – with the start of walk-ins at Brimbank Mental Health and Wellbeing Local.

Minister for Mental Health Gabrielle Williams today visited the Brimbank Service to announce that anyone aged 26 years and older can now walk in and get the help they need – no referral or appointment required.

Initially opening late last year for telehealth and outreach support, the Brimbank service can now provide support for the whole community – there will also be support available over the weekends in coming months. Cohealth in partnership with Clarity Health Care and the University of Melbourne are delivering the service.

The Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals were a key recommendation of the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System, providing support and treatment for adults aged 26 and older experiencing mental illness or psychological distress in their community, including those with co-occurring substance use or addiction.

The local services act as a 'front door' to the mental health and wellbeing system offering welcoming and inclusive spaces, staffed by qualified mental health professionals, including peer support workers to cater for the diverse needs of all communities.

Since the first six local services opened last year, 763 people have engaged with the services in the Benalla-Wangaratta-Mansfield region, Brimbank, Frankston, Greater Geelong-Queenscliffe region, Latrobe, and Whittlesea.

Another seven local services in Dandenong, Shepparton, Melton, Mildura, Lilydale, Bendigo-Echuca and Orbost-Bairnsdale are set to open by end of 2023.

The remaining Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals will be operational by 2026 – ensuring every Victorian can get the support they need, closer to home.

For more information on the Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals visit health.vic.gov.au/mental-health-reform

Quote attributable to Minister for Mental Health Gabrielle Williams

"As recommended by the Royal Commission, we are transforming our mental health system into one that is responsive and compassionate, because that's what every Victorian deserves."

Quote attributable to Member for Sydenham Natalie Hutchins

"We are making it much easier for Victorians to seek out mental health support and these local services provide a welcoming and accessible environment in the community."

Quote attributable to Member for Laverton Sarah Connolly

"This is an important addition to our community for those who need support, and this service will make a big difference."

Quote from Member for St Albans Natalie Suleyman

"This new centre will help address increasing demand for mental health and provide vital care for people in Brimbank and across the West."

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