

# Media Release

**Ingrid Stitt MP**  
Minister for Mental Health  
Minister for Ageing  
Minister for Multicultural Affairs



Thursday, 10 July 2025

## MORE FREE MENTAL HEALTH CARE COMING TO YOUR COMMUNITY

The Allan Labor Government is expanding its network of Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals so more Victorians can get free mental health support close to home without needing a GP referral or Medicare card.

Minister for Mental Health Ingrid Stitt today visited the Brimbank Mental Health and Wellbeing Local to announce that seven new Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals will soon open across Victoria.

These new Locals will be established in the Cardinia, Darebin, Maribyrnong, Maroondah, Port Phillip, Wyndham and Mount Alexander (servicing Mount Alexander, Central Goldfields and Macedon Ranges) Local Government Areas.

Acting as a 'front door' to the mental health system, the Locals offer support and treatment for Victorians experiencing mental illness or psychological distress, including co-occurring substance use or addiction.

Support is delivered in-person, via telehealth and via outreach services with a care plan designed to reflect a person's goals and preferences – family, carers and supporters can also be involved.

A flagship reform following the *Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System*, the new services build on the 15 existing Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals operating across 17 locations that have already helped more than 23,000 Victorians access free community-based mental health care and support.

The growing uptake of these reflects real progress in delivering the accessible, and community-embedded care envisioned by the Royal Commission.

The seven new Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals are expected to open from late 2025, continuing the Labor Government's ongoing reform and expansion of community-based services.

To make it even easier to access help, walk-in support is now available at the existing Bairnsdale, Lilydale and Melton Locals, giving Victorians more options to care when and where they need it.

The *Victorian Budget 2025/26* invested \$34.4 million to support the 17 existing locations, establish these seven new locations and continue essential community-based mental health services across Victoria.

The Labor Government has invested \$6 billion in the mental health system since the Royal Commission report was handed down and grown the mental health workforce by 25 per cent.

For more information on Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals, visit [betterhealth.vic.gov.au/mhwlocal](https://betterhealth.vic.gov.au/mhwlocal).

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Mental Health Ingrid Stitt

*"We are delivering the biggest mental health reform in our nation's history – and our Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals are key to making sure all Victorians can access free and compassionate care, close to home."*

*"Victorians have embraced Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals, with more than 23,000 people already accessing support, and soon even more Victorians will benefit from this service in their local community."*

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**Quote attributable to Member for Laverton Sarah Connolly**

*“This is an incredible service, staffed by highly qualified and compassionate mental health professionals – and I’m thrilled that even more Victorians will soon be able to access this vital support in their own communities.”*