

The WA mental health system: Snapshot of structure and funding

Funding for mental health services is provided by the Western Australian Government and the Australian Government, with individuals and private health insurers also contributing to the funding mix.

WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) invests more than \$55 million annually into commissioned primary mental healthcare services (with an additional \$15-20m for the National Psychosocial Support Measure). WAPHA estimates its funding equates to approximately 6-10 per cent of the total mental health expenditure in Western Australia.

WAPHA targets its funding to commission services that support General Practice and where there are gaps in the primary mental health system. The Western Australian State Government funds approximately 60 per cent of mental health expenditure in Western Australia. The bulk of this funding is spent on the management and administration of public hospitals (47 per cent) and community mental health services (43 per cent).

The Western Australian State Government is the main provider of care for individuals with severe and/or complex mental health needs. There are five Health Service Providers, funded by the Western Australian Government, who provide clinical mental health services:

- Child and Adolescent Health Service
- East Metropolitan Health Service
- North Metropolitan Health Service

- South Metropolitan Health Service
- The WA Country Health Service.

The Australian Government funds approximately 35 per cent of mental health-related services in Western Australia, primarily through:

- Medicare-subsidised services, including the [Better Access Initiative](#)
- The Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.
- The Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme for subsidised mental health prescriptions.
- Veterans' mental health services.
- Primary Health Networks (PHNs).
- Social security payments (.eg. Disability Support Pension).

Western Australia is unique among States/Territories by having a state Mental Health Commission that is responsible for planning, strategy and purchasing state-based services from Health Service Providers and Non-Government Organisations.

The Western Australian Mental Health Commission published [Western Australia's 10-year Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs services plan \(WA Plan\)](#), in 2015. The WA Plan provides a roadmap for service development, transformation and expansion of mental health, alcohol and other drug services in Western Australia, until 2025.



This is one of a series of factsheets regarding mental health and primary health care, developed by WAPHA. Further factsheets and other resources can be found at www.wapha.org.au/mental-health-framework. The information in this factsheet is current at December 2020.

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