

## Budget 2021 – Member Reflections

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### **Ergonomie**

“It is heartening to see the Government's commitment to take a systemic approach to the prevention of suicide. The establishment of the National Suicide Prevention Office will enable all areas of the Government to work together towards the goal of zero suicides. The provision of funding for both prevention and postvention initiatives is important to support those at risk and those already impacted by suicide.

What a fantastic opportunity for Suicide Prevention Australia to progress it's work to make a real difference to suicide prevention and management.”

**Craig Fletcher, Managing Director and Principal Consultant, Ergonomie**

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### **Batyr**

“Young people have faced a year like no other and we don't yet fully understand the true future impacts of the virus, lockdowns, economic insecurity and a loss of hope on their mental health and wellbeing. We need investment to get ahead of it. Although the young weren't the headline focus for the budget I'm grateful to see the establishment of a new National Suicide Prevention Office to coordinate a whole-of-government approach to reducing suicides which organisations and individuals like Suicide Prevention Australia have been advocating for sometime now. A commitment to providing universal aftercare for all Australians after a suicide attempt, including young people is a critical investment in care at a time of great need. It's also promising to see funding for specialised aftercare services and a 24/7 crisis line for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. How these aftercare services are implemented and coordinated with the States quickly to meet demand is critical, as there are young people who need help right now. Training in and for school communities and the pressure placed on teachers and parents to care for the young people in their lives did not receive significant investment and although there is a shift toward a preventative focus there is still a substantial focus on waiting until care is needed before intervening. A really good foundation setting budget and we look forward to seeing the overall investment into this area continuing to increase to meet the great need.”

**Nic Brown, Chief Executive Officer, batyr**

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### **Lifeline**

“As Australians have grappled with the challenging past two years, we have reached out for help like never before. We're very encouraged by the reforms outlined in the budget and look forward to working with the Federal Government to continue to build a mental health system that delivers better outcomes for Australians. From a Lifeline perspective, we are pleased to see an ongoing commitment to 13HELP assisting those who have been impacted by 2019/20 bushfires, as well as continued funding to allow Lifeline to continue to support Australians through COVID. It is also pleasing to receive support from Government to introduce an exciting new initiative focusing on improving outcomes for the mental health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.”

**Colin Seery, Chief Executive Officer, Lifeline**

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### **Gayaa Dhuwi**

“Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Australia welcomes the Budget 2021 announcements towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health and suicide prevention. This represents an area that has been traditionally overlooked in suicide prevention and mental health care over a number of decades and we are playing catch-up in that

regard. However, we are pleased some attention has been focussed in this year's Budget and we need to maintain the momentum to restore the strength of culture and capacity of communities across suicide prevention and mental health care over many years to come. While we welcome the attention, we also need to ensure there is inclusion of responsibilities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples mental health across each and every one of the announcements and initiatives listed in the Budget spend. That remains the true test and the challenge to each of the initiatives identified to ensure the real value of ensuring a focus on the 'middle missing' parts that confront us and that strong integrated care is a real focus of mental health and suicide prevention structural achievement for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across all these critical areas of need. The announcements come on the same day Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Australia released our final public consultation draft for the [National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Strategy 2021 – 2031](#). There is a short turnaround until 28 May 2021 for those who may wish to provide input to the draft strategy."

**Tom Brideson, Chief Executive Officer, Gayaa Dhuwi**

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## **Wesley Mission**

"Our Network welcomes a focus on mental health and suicide prevention in the 2021 budget, particularly increased investment for First Nations Aftercare and Crisis Support services. However, we are still concerned that the local causes of issues such as poverty, insufficient rural services and infrastructure and addiction are not being addressed. We are not receiving adequate funding at a grassroots level, leaving our communities to do the best they can with little support. Our Network is willing to connect, engage and collaborate with any individual, organisation or government agency willing to help combat suicides in our community."

**Kodi Brady, Chairperson, Yarn Support Connect, Coonabarabran Suicide Prevention Network**

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## **Country South Australia Primary Health Network**

"We are very pleased to see the continuation of funding to the Suicide Prevention Trial sites which includes activity within country South Australia. Additional funding for headspace and youth mental health provides an opportunity for us to seek a needed new site in regional SA. It is also pleasing to see additional funding to national suicide leadership and support. Country SA PHN supports the work of Suicide Prevention Australia and welcomes their in-turn support to locally based services and other community activities in country South Australia.

The budget provides additional funding across a range of activities across Australia and we appreciate the Treasurer's statement that regional Australia will never be taken for granted and look forward to sorely needed funding allocations for regional South Australia."

**Kim Hosking, Chief Executive Officer, Country South Australia Primary Health Network**