



LIZA HARVEY

MEMBER FOR SCARBOROUGH



Representing: Carine*, Doubleview, Gwelup, Innaloo, Karrinyup, North Beach, Osborne Park*, Scarborough, Trigg

Ms Erin Clinch
Western Australian Divisional Manager
Occupational Therapy Australia
45 Ventnor Avenue
WEST PERTH WA 6005

VIA EMAIL: erin.clinch@otaus.com.au

Dear Erin & Felicity

Thank you for your correspondence to the Liberal State Director Sam Calabrese, who has passed the matter over to me in my capacity as the Shadow Minister Mental Health.

I agree with your calls for additional resources for occupational therapists to address a wide-ranging of mental health issues. You may be aware that we recently announced \$316 million in mental health commitments, with a strong focus on prevention and community support.

This policy recognises the important role of mental health occupational therapists in providing support for children, indigenous communities and the broader community as a whole.

This included:

Prevention and promotion

- \$45.5m to map and fill the gaps in mental health prevention services.
- \$35m to fund a comprehensive state suicide prevention strategy, with specific youth and Aboriginal suicide prevention plans.

Community support

- \$30.3m to expand personal recovery programs and community support options.
- \$10.75m to expand and fully fund 10 additional Safe Haven ED alternatives.
- \$8m to establish rural and remote neighbourhood drop-in centres.
- \$6.1m to integrate employment specialists into community mental health treatment teams.
- \$6.3m to review existing advocacy services and expand them to ensure state-wide access.



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Peer Support

- \$5.5m to fund 6 Peer Led Crisis and Recovery Centres for people with high acuity and multiple unmet needs.
- \$5.2m to implement adolescent peer and family recover centres with warm lines.
- \$2m to establish a dedicated peer warm line.

Community Supported Accommodation

- \$35m to increase individual supported accommodation packages for those with lower needs.
- \$12m to increase individual supported accommodation for those with complex needs.

School psychologists

- An additional \$76 million over four years to increase the number of school psychologists to provide schools with greater access to professional and individual face-to-face student support and counselling services. It is expected to deliver around 100 FTE additional school psychologists who will be available to government schools.
- The funding commitment incorporates an additional \$36 million for Catholic Education WA and the Association of Independent Schools WA to also increase their school psychology services to schools within their respective sectors.

Youths

- \$35m to plan and fund the Young People Priorities for Action plan (Young People Priority Framework) to improve community treatment options for children and adolescents.

Workforce Development

- \$4 million to deliver workforce programs across the Youth Mental Health sector development team, Aboriginal sector development program and the Mental Health Sector.

In relation to your request to direct Education WA to work with Occupational Therapy Australia to develop appropriate access guidelines for schools, I agree with you in-principle and I am more than happy to fight with you to achieve this outcome.

I have spoken to our Shadow Transport Minister Libby Mettam regarding greater regulation of vehicle modifications. We agree in-principle that more needs to be done in this area, and I know Libby has been working with other organisations to achieve a nationally consistent approach to delivering vehicle modifications, including legislation, standards and regulations.



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She is keen to sit down with you to identify and fight for the specific issues facing the sector.

Thank you very much for your interest and advocacy on these important matters and we look forward to working with your organisation into the future.

Yours sincerely

**HON LIZA HARVEY MLA
MEMBER FOR SCARBOROUGH
SHADOW MINISTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH
10 MARCH 2021**



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