

2024 Election Commitment – Canberra Liberals

Name of Commitment:	Mental Health - Services	Reference Number: LIB084
Request Submitted by:	Elizabeth Lee MLA, Canberra Liberals	
Date Request Received:	11-Oct-24	
Additional Information Requested (details and date)	N/A	
Additional Information Received (details and date)	N/A	

Financial Implications					
Impact On:	2024-25 \$'000	2025-26 \$'000	2026-27 \$'000	2027-28 \$'000	TOTAL \$'000
Revenues ^(a)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenses ^{(a)(b)}	0.0	-5,000.0	-5,747.0	-747.0	-11,494.0
- Employee Expenses	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
- Other Expenses	0.0	-5,000.0	-5,747.0	-747.0	-11,494.0
- Cost of Financing	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Depreciation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Operating Balance	0.0	-5,000.0	-5,747.0	-747.0	-11,494.0
Capital Requirement	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cash Surplus/Deficit	0.0	-5,000.0	-5,747.0	-747.0	-11,494.0
(a) A negative number indicates a decrease in revenue or an increase in expenses.					
(b) Excludes depreciation					

Other Information
Costing Methodology Used: - Costing Technique: This costing is for: - a fixed amount of \$5.0 million per annum over two years from 2025-26 to 2026-27 (\$10.0 million in total) for a grants program for mental health services; and \$1.494 million over two years from 2026-27 to 2027-28 (\$747,000 per annum) for a fee-for-service program to provide 4,000 clinical psychology sessions (at an average cost of \$261 per session) and 3,000 counselling sessions (at an average cost of \$150 per session) to ACT schoolchildren over the two year period.
- Proposal Parameters: - The costing assumes that administrative expenses associated with this measure would be absorbed by the Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing in the ACT Health Directorate, who would administer the grants program and undertake a tender for the provision of the psychology and counselling sessions. - No indexation has been applied. - The costing assumes a full take-up of both the grant fund and the fee-for-service program, and that the funding would not continue beyond 2027-28. - The costing assumes that a sufficient supply of psychology and counselling services would be available in the market to permit full take-up of the fee-for-service program.

Caveats or qualifications to the costing:

Treasury notes that costs for psychology and counselling sessions vary significantly by service providers and that bulk rates (that is, reduced single unit cost options) are available in the market. The estimated average costs per session presented in the costing request fall within that wide range. However, the precise number of psychology and counselling sessions able to be sourced within the proposed level of funding will depend upon the rates per session negotiated by the ACT Health Directorate.

Treasury also notes that should the demand for clinical psychology and/or counselling sessions be greater than expected, there may be increases to the cost of the program.

Other Comments:

Treasury notes that the costs of establishing administrative arrangements to deliver a new grants program and undertake the tender may require additional staff or reprioritisation of existing ACT Health Directorate resourcing, which may impact on the Directorate's ability to deliver other activities.

- Statistical Data Used:

Treasury estimates.



Stuart Hocking PSM
Under Treasurer
15 October 2024