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Mental Health Victoria's 2026 election platform

Mental Health Victoria is calling for a fresh commitment to a shared vision for the future, and an accountable, transparent approach to how it will be achieved.

Reset the reform and rebuild confidence

These commitments will revitalise the social license for reform, rebuild public and sector confidence, and set a clear direction and sequence of change that achieves the Royal Commission objectives.

1 Commit to the Mental Health and Wellbeing Levy

A levy used exactly as intended: to build a sustainable, properly resourced public mental health and wellbeing system that never has to turn people away in their time of need. Commit to annual reporting on both levy revenue and expenditure.

2 In the first 100 days, reset the reform agenda

In partnership with the mental health sector, evaluate reform progress to date through an independent review. Deliver a roadmap of reforms sequenced and prioritised so the system can adapt, grow and mature, backed by funding decisions grounded in current data and evidence of what's working. Assess system performance and the influence of new and emerging issues on reform prioritisation.
Commit to ongoing core funding for MHV to embed sector perspectives in this work.

3 Commit to establishing an independent monitoring and oversight function

Responsible for:

- reviewing and reporting on system-wide issues
- testing the threshold for and adjudicating the reasonableness of any proposed deviation, re-interpretation, or retirement of RCVMHS recommendations
- making sure that implementation responds to new and emerging issues
- ensuring new and emerging system issues are integrated, and evaluating the extent to which recommendations have delivered the proposed value within the value chain

This should include powers to compel information, whole of public policy scope, and a mandate to plan and sequence reforms for the Victoria of today.

Equity and system stabilisation

These commitments give Victorians assurance that every dollar spent on reform contributes to a stable foundation of essentials. These are the starting point for an equitable approach to reform into the future.

4 End the postcode lottery

By resourcing and establishing a consistent range and quality of mental health and wellbeing services in every corner of the state.
Codify the core mental health inputs guaranteed in each region to ensure the same range and quality of services are available to every Victorian and defined within a system capability framework aligned to both state and Commonwealth investment.

5 Re-establish core infrastructure of psychosocial supports outside the NDIS

By taking a whole of government approach to rebuilding a system of evidence informed interventions supporting recovery, independence, and participation for Victorians who are falling through the cracks. Commit to a whole of government framework for psychosocial supports that includes supported employment models, Housing First supports, peer support, recovery colleges and psychoeducation, family and carer support, care coordination, and social connection programs.

Stabilise the Mental Health and Wellbeing workforce

These commitments make mental health an attractive career prospect, with positive cultures that respect and value workers of all disciplines and backgrounds and create the conditions for sustainable, lifelong careers.

6 Deliver equal pay for equal work

By fully funding the real cost of award increases and resolving pay inequities through the Mental Health EBA disproportionately impacting allied health clinicians.

7 Within the first 100 days publish an updated workforce strategy

To correspond with the reset reform agenda, codifying and mapping workforce growth, development and retention assets available to each LHSN region.