

Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings

Portfolio:	Mental Health
Witness:	Minister Foley
Committee member:	Mr Riordan – requested the information
Page/s of transcript:	Not Applicable

Relevant text

1. BP3, p. 50 – there does not appear to be a line item related to programs funded under Stage 1 of the Ice Action Plan, including Community Ice Action Grants. Why have you axed funding for these community led programs that have helped footy clubs, schools and community groups take proactive action to help manage and avoid the devastating impact of Ice in their communities?

Answer

The Victorian Government is committed to reducing the harm caused by alcohol and other drugs. In 2019-20, the Victorian Government is investing a record \$273.1 million in alcohol and other drug services, representing an increase in investment of 65 per cent through the last five State Budgets.

As part of this commitment, the government has extended current funding arrangements for a range of initiatives for 2019-20 including \$1.6 million for activities under the Ice Action Plan.

Funding for Stage 1 of the Ice Action Plan has been continued for many services, including for the Needle and Syringe Program, family drug support services, ice education for families and mental health and alcohol and other drug support practice leaders ice training.

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2. Can you please provide a list of organisations that received grants under the community Ice Action grant program for the 2017-18 and 2018-19 years, including the amount provided?

Answer

2017-18 Community Ice Action Grant recipients	Local Government Area	Grant amount
Kirrae Health Service	Moyne	10,000.00
Mitchell Shire Council	Mitchell	9,479.00
Ballarat & District Aboriginal Co-operative	Grampians Region	10,000.00
Bendigo Community Health Services	Campaspe	10,000.00
Frankston Mornington Peninsula Primary Care Partnership	Frankston	10,000.00
Towong Shire Council	Tallangatta	10,000.00
AFL Gippsland	Bass Coast	10,000.00
Cardinia Shire Council	Cardinia	10,000.00
Macedon Ranges Local Safety Committee	Macedon Ranges	10,000.00
Sports Focus	Greater Bendigo	10,000.00
STEREO 974	Hume	10,000.00
Victorian AIDS Council Inc.	Greater Bendigo	10,000.00
Wyndham City	Wyndham	4,900.00

2018-19 Community Ice Action Grant recipients	Local Government Area	Grant amount
Australian Red Cross Society	West Grampians	7,750.00
Ballarat and District Aboriginal Co-operative	Grampians	10,000.00
Break The Ice Australia	Moonee Valley City	10,000.00
Frankston Mornington Peninsula Primary Care Partnership	Frankston	10,000.00
Kirrae Health Service	Moyne	10,000.00
Latrobe Community Health Services Limited	Latrobe Valley Wellington Baw Baw Shires	7,995.53
Mitchell Shire Council	Mitchell Shire	9,616.00

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2018-19 Community Ice Action Grant recipients	Local Government Area	Grant amount
Mungabareena Aboriginal Corporation	Wodonga	9,970.00
Sports Focus: Loddon Campaspe Sports Assembly	Central Goldfields Campaspe	10,000.00
Stepping Up Consortium	Frankston Mornington Peninsula	10,000.00
Sudanese Mothers Coalition in Victoria	Melton Brimbank Maribyrnong Wyndham	10,000.00
TaskForce Community Agency	Cardinia Shire	10,000.00
Thorne Harbour Health	Greater Bendigo	10,000.00
Wodonga Council	Wodonga	9,860.00

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3. Minister, in March 2018 you made a commitment to provide 100 additional Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) rehab [rehabilitation] beds. How many extra public rehab [rehabilitation] beds were provided from the date you made that commitment to the election?

Answer

Since 2014-15, the Andrews Labor Government will have more than doubled the number of alcohol and other drug residential rehabilitation beds in Victoria, from 208 in 2014-15 to 492 once all facilities are fully operational.

This includes funding through the Ice Action Plan and the Drug Rehabilitation Plan and means that Victorians across the state with complex care needs can access quality treatment, faster for their alcohol and drug issues.

In October 2017, the Government announced that it would establish 100 extra residential rehabilitation beds by March 2018 as part of the Drug Rehabilitation Plan. An additional 100 public residential rehabilitation beds were established prior to the recent election.

Between October 2018 and February 2019, a further 20 adult residential rehabilitation beds opened at the new Grampians residential rehabilitation facility.

The 2019-20 State Budget announced \$10.2 million to operationalise 30 beds at the Hope Restart Centre in Gippsland. This is in addition to funding from the 2018-19 State Budget to construct purpose-built alcohol and other drug residential rehabilitation facilities in the Barwon, Hume and Gippsland regions. This includes 30 bed adult residential rehabilitation facilities in Corio and Wangaratta, as well as a new 20 bed youth-specific residential rehabilitation service in Traralgon – meaning that, once fully operational, hundreds more people in regional Victoria will access treatment, closer to home and family.

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4. Were any private beds leased to fulfil this commitment before the election?
 - a. If so, was there was a significant premium attached to leasing these private rehab beds. What was that premium or cost per bed?
 - b. What was the total funding required to fulfil the commitment of 100 additional rehab [rehabilitation] beds?

Answer

In October 2017, the Andrews Labor Government made a commitment to establish 100 additional residential rehabilitation beds in Victoria. One hundred additional beds were available by March 2018 to meet urgent demand for services and improve access to treatment for people who were struggling.

The Drug Rehabilitation plan provided \$53 million over four years to establish 100 additional residential rehabilitation beds at both new and existing public facilities across the state.

It was vital that services were up and running as soon as possible – that is why the government worked with a range of partners in the public and private sector. While some of the public facilities were being established, beds were contracted from private providers. No additional funding was required.

Since 2014-15, the government will have more than doubled the number of alcohol and other drug residential rehabilitation beds in Victoria, from 208 in 2014-15 to 492 once all facilities are fully operational.

This government's investment in residential rehabilitation beds in Victoria will provide around 900 more Victorians with access to residential rehabilitation services every year – more than half of these will be based in regional Victoria.

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5. I refer to BP3, p. 57 regarding the Injecting Room. Minister, in your data provided regarding the Richmond Injecting Room you refer to the number of ‘saved lives’ or people who have had medical assistance following drug use. Minister, how many unique individuals does this include?

Answer

The transitional medically supervised injecting room is saving lives and reducing drug-related harm. Since the medically supervised injecting room opened on 30 June 2018, trained staff have safely managed over 1,130 overdoses that may otherwise have been fatal had there been no one to resuscitate them.

North Richmond Community Health has advised that these overdoses include a proportion of clients who have had overdoses safely managed more than once.

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6. Can you please provide the committee with a table of the number, location and provider for all residential rehabilitation beds in Victoria?

Answer

Service provider	Local Government Area	Beds
Bendigo Health	Greater Bendigo	8
Eastern Access Community Health (EACH)	Yarra Ranges	12
Eastern Access Community Health (EACH)	Yarra Ranges	11
Eastern Health Turning Point	Whitehorse	8
Odyssey House Victoria	Banyule	137
The Salvation Army	Darebin	4
The Salvation Army	Greater Bendigo	18
The Salvation Army	Knox	40
Western Health	Brimbank	20
Windana Drug and Alcohol Recovery	Cardinia	77
Windana Drug and Alcohol Recovery	Ballarat	20
Youth Support and Advocacy Service (YSAS)	Darebin	15
Youth Support and Advocacy Service (YSAS)	Mornington Peninsula	12
<i>Residential rehabilitation facilities under establishment</i>		
Odyssey House	East Gippsland	30
Gateway Health and Odyssey House	Wangaratta	30
Windana Drug and Alcohol Recovery	Greater Geelong	30
<i>To be confirmed</i>	Latrobe	20

N.B. the line item 'Eastern Access Community Health (EACH) – Yarra Ranges' appears twice as the reference is to two distinct areas

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7. Regarding the critical mental health service demand initiative, what will be the average, and maximum, number of treatment hours per annum, per client as a result of this funding?

Answer

The Andrews Labor Government has committed \$28.7 million over two years to give more than 7,000 people access to earlier care and support through additional clinical mental health services in the community. This will give more Victorians experiencing mental illness better treatment and care, closer to home.

The *Department of Health and Human Services Annual Report 2017-18* provides information regarding total community service hours delivered by mental health services and total registered community clients (p. 86). These figures could be used to derive an estimate of the average number of community service hours per client; however, an average calculated in this way does not necessarily give an accurate view of the support available to a client.

The Department of Health and Human Services (the department) does not stipulate a maximum number of community service hours per client. The department sets targets for the number of service hours delivered by each health service. However, the number of treatment hours for a client is determined by their treating team based on clinical need.