



## Triple Bottom Line (TBL) Assessment Summary

*The Triple Bottom Line Assessment is required to be published in accordance with Part 4, section 23 (1)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2016*

### CAB20/234 – Mental Health Planning COVID-19

#### Summary of impacts:

- This Cabinet Submission proposes a list of support packages to improve the capacity, availability and access to a range of mental health services across the Canberra community.
- While the primary rationale behind these support packages is improving mental health, this TBL Assessment indicates that the package will have an overall positive impact on a number of social and economic factors.
- This is not surprising as it is known that poor mental health can affect a number of domains of life, such as employment, education or housing. Equally, these domains can also have a bearing on mental health.
- In particular, the support packages in this Cabinet Submission are also targeted towards intervening early in illness or preventing illness overall, by supporting community mental health in response to COVID-19.
- Additionally, a number of these packages are targeted at, or will help, people who are experiencing mental health concerns as a result of financial and economic difficulties.
- Thus, it is intended that the costs of these support packages will be outweighed by the long-term benefits across a number of domains.

<b>Level of impact</b>	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>Neutral</b>
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<b>Social</b>		
<b>Level of impact</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Summary</b>
<b>Positive</b>	Gender Equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indirect positive impacts on gender equality by increasing access to supports to promote and protect mental health and wellbeing and prevent escalation of psychological distress.</li> </ul>
<b>Positive</b>	Health (Community and mental health)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This proposal represents a significant commitment to support mental health services in response to the known and emerging mental health and wellbeing needs of the ACT community in the context of COVID-19.</li> <li>• The proposed initiatives make a substantial contribution to mental health early intervention and prevention to build individual and community</li> </ul>

		resilience. This will help to reduce the overall mental health impacts of COVID-19.
Positive	Access to services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A large focus of this package is to increase the ability to respond to increased demand from the ACT community and enhanced early intervention and prevention capacity.</li> <li>• This will be achieved by supporting services to continue to deliver services effectively and safely, while also enabling clients to access services effectively from social isolation.</li> <li>• Another focus is on increasing community awareness of services available to support the mental health of Canberrans.</li> </ul>
Positive	Homelessness support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing an uplift of funding to the mental health sector will provide better support for people impacted by COVID-19, which can help to prevent housing instability that could otherwise lead to homelessness.</li> </ul>
Positive	Access to social inclusion/participation and community activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A number of programs in this package are aimed at increasing the capacity for innovation by mental health services to provide whole-of-community level activities that meet the current requirements of social distancing, whilst increasing the ability of Canberrans to remain connected and feel supported and included.</li> <li>• Enhancing the IT capacity of services ensures that vulnerable service users, existing and new, are able to access services when they need them.</li> </ul>
Positive	Human rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to health services (including mental health services) is a human right and the proposed initiatives will lead to better systemic capacity and community awareness and access to these services during COVID-19.</li> </ul>
Positive	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of the programs proposed is to develop a specific Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander targeted mental health program.</li> <li>• There are other indirect positive impacts on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through increasing access to supports to promote and protect mental health and wellbeing and prevent escalation of psychological distress.</li> </ul>
Positive	Multicultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indirect positive impacts on people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, through increasing access to supports to promote and protect mental health and wellbeing and prevent escalation of psychological distress.</li> </ul>
Positive	Impacts on different age groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACT Health Directorate has ensured that the proposed initiatives provide support for all age groups across the lifespan with additional attention paid to at risk groups, including young people and older Canberrans.</li> </ul>
Positive	Disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposal builds on work being undertaken with the Deaf community to address systemic risk associated</li> </ul>

		with access to and demand for interpreters and appropriate mental health services.
Positive	Justice and Crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding extension of the DECO program contributes to improved outcomes for people exiting detention, including reduced likelihood of recidivism.</li> <li>• Funding early counselling services such as MensLink are likely to reduce aggression in young men, which will have flow on effects to preventing domestic, family and other violence arising from the increased pressures of COVID19.</li> </ul>

Economic		
Level of impact	Impact	Summary
Positive	ACT Government Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed initiatives have been identified as offering substantially high value return on investment.</li> <li>• All investments are likely to save multiple times the amount invested through prevented escalation requiring more expensive and timely acute treatment; and/or avoided emergency department presentation and admission to inpatient units, which are also highly costly.</li> </ul>
Positive	Productivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through improving mental health and wellbeing outcomes for service users, these initiatives contribute to helping people stay well, for longer, and therefore able to participate in social and economic activities including employment and education.</li> <li>• This is particularly critical for protecting mental health and promoting recovery for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ frontline essential workers who are exposed daily to COVID19 risks.</li> <li>○ People who have lost or face losing employment and livelihood.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Positive	Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a specific initiative proposed that provides opportunities for community mental health providers to seek grant funding for innovative and creative ways to address current and emerging mental health needs of the community, particularly in the COVID19 context.</li> </ul>
Positive	Employment and labour force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed initiatives provide additional funding to ACT community mental health NGO's and health services to support continued employment of staff</li> <li>• Initiatives also support economic activity through utilisation of other organisations in development of innovative responses to mental health needs and upgrading IT infrastructure.</li> <li>• Some initiatives also create new FTE positions, increasing workforce opportunities for the Canberra community.</li> </ul>

Positive	Small business impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Many ACT NGO's meet the definition of small to medium business and the funding proposed in this package will allow continuation of employment and increase ability to respond proactively to community demand.</li> </ul>
Positive	Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposal provides for increased innovation and improved IT capability of community based mental health services. This will in turn lead to increased skill bases for staff as they adapt to working across multiple communication mediums.</li> </ul>
Neutral	Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During this time, many families are adapting to changed educational practices which can lead to increased stress. Some aspects of this package are targeted directly at this demographic and will provide additional support for families impacted at this time.</li> </ul>
Positive	Investment and Economic Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investment in community mental health organisational capacity improves their sustainability and economic efficiency now and into the future.</li> <li>Investment in improved mental health and well-being of the community will help to soften the economic impacts of COVID-19 by leading to reduced long-term mental ill-health and increased community ability to transition out of the current crisis back into normal societal practices.</li> </ul>
Positive	Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nil Impact.</li> <li>However, all investments in keeping the community mentally healthy and well position the ACT economy to recover and the population to re-enter regular social and economic activities as smoothly and quickly as possible.</li> </ul>
Positive	Cost of living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some proposals in this package will assist particularly vulnerable demographics to have additional funds to dedicate toward mental health and wellbeing. This will assist with cost of living in this time of economic uncertainty.</li> </ul>