

19/089 - Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing – Work Plan

Summary of Impacts	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing Work Plan (the Work Plan) will have a number of positive social and economic effects. Improved mental health of the community will have a flow on effect to reduce demand for broader community and government services. The Work Plan's focus on mentally healthy community and work places covers actions to address the broader determinants of mental health and wellbeing including insecure housing, lack of employment or poor employment, poor social connections, lack of access to education and training and experience with the justice system. Addressing these determinants will result in social and economic benefits such as reducing workplace costs from illness, improved employment outcomes of people with mental illness, and reducing growth in demand for acute mental health services and alcohol and drugs addiction services and reduced impact on the criminal justice system. The Work Plan's second and third areas of focus will have significant social and economic impact through improving mental health outcomes. This will be achieved by improved integration and quality of mental health services across the continuum from prevention and early support to acute care. Improving mental health outcomes will help to improve the physical health of people with mental illness. This can also help to reduce the growth in the utilisation of healthcare resources. Environmental impacts have been considered and none have been identified.

Key to impacts: Red – negative, Blue - neutral and Green - positive

Social

Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addressing factors leading to poor physical health of people with mental illness and improving mental health across the continuum should reduce the growth in demand for acute mental health and physical health services. These benefits will be increasingly important to reduce the overall patterns of growth in health expenditure, which have been experienced by the ACT and across the other States and Territories.
Justice and human rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addressing the social and economic determinants that influence mental health and are impacted by mental ill-health will have a flow on effect to reduce growth in demand for community services including the justice system. Improving the outcomes for people with mental illness enhances their human rights and provides greater opportunity for social and economic participation.
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Office will work across the sector to develop a coordinated approach to the social determinants including stable, safe and affordable housing. This may have cost implications through the identification of the housing needs. However, there will also be cost benefits through people with mental illness having access to stable and secure housing, improved employment opportunities and earlier support to maintain mental health and promote recovery.
Vulnerable and disadvantaged	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People with mental illness have poorer health outcomes, reduced life expectancy, lower socio-economic status. Through the Work Plan, the Office will work with across Government and the sector to develop specific strategies to address groups with high levels of mental ill-health.

Economic

ACT Government Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Work Plan aims to improve the coordination and integration of mental health services in the ACT. This will help to streamline the usage of health resources, improve their efficiency and reduce demand for services. The work plan will also support and be supported by initiatives across Government. Actions pursued may have cost implications and future budget submissions may be made.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the longer term, a system wide approach to improve mental health and wellbeing and support people with mental illness is likely to have an impact in reducing the demand on high-cost responses such as acute mental health facilities and the criminal justice system.
Productivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing mentally healthy workplaces will have an economic benefit to the workplace and the broader community through improved workforce participation, reduction in time away from work and reduced cost of workers compensation.
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing mentally healthy workplaces will have an economic benefit through improved workforce participation of people with mental illness.

Environmental

Nil impact.