



Robyn Preston MP

Shadow Minister for Veterans

MEDIA RELEASE

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Pre-Budget Announcement Fails Mental Health

The Minns Labor Government's mental health pre-Budget announcement fails to deliver funding our public and community mental health care sector needs.

The NSW Coalition joined with the mental health sector in condemning the Minns Government for delivering funding that barely matches the Consumer Price Index.

Shadow Mental Health Minister Robyn Preston said the Labor Government has lost control of the state's Budget, leading to cuts and underfunding of important services like mental health.

"Our mental health care system is getting further fragmented, leading to worse outcomes. For example, the Mental Health Front Door program will largely be an on-line service because of the funding shortfall," said Ms Preston.

"This week's funding announcement actually **cuts the Pathways for Community Living Initiative funding from \$160 million to \$40 million over four years**, which will result in 230 beds being cut to 20. This program supports some of the most vulnerable people in our community who deserve more, not less support."

"Recent State Government gap analysis showed there are 58,000 people with severe and complex mental health needs in NSW who cannot access the care they need – and Chris Minns is failing to deliver funding that will ensure current mental health care demands are met."

"With Chris Minns providing the second lowest per capita of mental health care funding in the country, the coming Budget must deliver a meaningful funding boost in mental health care," Ms Preston concluded.

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