

MENTAL HEALTH



Your faith | Your vote | Your voice

“I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly.” (John 10:10). These words of Jesus remind us that life is more than simply existing. Abundant life means being able to move beyond survival needs to growth of the soul and human potential. However, increasing numbers of Australians have simply been surviving. This struggle for survival has affected the mental health of many in our community.

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OUR CONCERNS

Health promotion. Health is not simply the absence of disease, but rather a state of wellbeing. This is also true of mental health. The World Health Organisation notes that exposure to unfavourable circumstances, such as poor housing, unstable environment, poverty and violence, all have the potential to affect an individual’s mental health. ([World Health Organisation, Mental Health, 2022](#))

Access for vulnerable groups. First Nations, rural populations, and people living in poverty have difficulty accessing culturally safe and affordable mental health support, including for preventative care.

Crisis response services. Emergency Departments are not appropriate places for people in emotional or psychological distress. An alternative needs to be developed that is more suitable for mental health crises. (Consumers of Mental Health WA, [Election 2025: An election for mental health.](#))

A focus on a surplus. The Government’s policy of delivering a surplus for Western Australia has meant that a proactive response to the current mental health crisis has been curtailed to ensure the surplus occurs. Whilst fiscal responsibility is important, it is also important to ensure it does not happen at the expense of the vulnerable in our communities.

ASK YOUR CANDIDATES

- What is your policy for improving crisis response for mental health services?
- What alternatives to emergency departments are you proposing to reduce the trauma for people experiencing mental health crises and accessing emergency medical care?
- How will you promote mental health in the same way as physical health is promoted, particularly for vulnerable populations such as First Nations and rural communities?
- How will you address the gap in services for those whose support needs are episodic and therefore they are not eligible for NDIS funding?
- How will you be proactive in addressing the challenges in developing resilience and good mental health because of the current social issues such as cost of living and housing?



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