



MATTHEW GUY MP

Leader of the Opposition
Leader of the Liberal Party

Media Release

Emma Kealy

18

October
2018

Kealy: Liberal Nationals supporting headspace to better support young Victorians

Wednesday 17 October 2018

Liberal Nationals supporting headspace to better support young Victorians

An elected Liberal Nationals Government will make sure young Victorians have access to the mental health services they need – regardless of where they live.

Headspace offers critical support to youths experiencing mental health or drug and alcohol issues but, especially for young people living in rural or remote Victoria, services can be out of reach.

Shadow Minister for Mental Health Emma Kealy announced today a Liberal Nationals Government will boost access to mental health services for all young Victorians, funding a new headspace outreach program.

If elected, we'll provide \$1.14 million in grants over four years for headspace to provide outreach services to communities in Regional Victoria and Melbourne.

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Programs could include social events for young people or regular outreach health services in communities without a permanent headspace location.

headspace is a critical support network for Victorians aged 12 to 25 in Melbourne and Regional Victoria.

One in four young people have experienced a mental health issue in the past 12 months – a higher prevalence than all other age groups.

Research shows that 75 per cent of mental health issues emerge before the age of 25. By treating these issues early and providing a holistic model of support, the risk of it developing into more serious problems is greatly reduced.

Outreach services have been successfully established in other states, including in New South Wales and Queensland.

Comment attributable to Shadow Minister for Mental Health Emma Kealy

headspace has had great success in engaging youth with mental health and drug and alcohol problems, but we can do better in Victoria to support our young people.

We must make sure all young people can get the mental health support they need – regardless of where they live.

I'm proud to be part of a Liberal Nationals Government that will put the health of our young people first, boosting support by funding much-needed headspace outreach services across the state.

Comment attributable to Liberal Candidate for Wendouree Amy Johnson

Mental health is a huge issue, particularly in our regional communities where resources are more difficult to find.

I'm really proud to be part of the Liberal National team determined to support young people dealing with mental health issues, no matter where they live.

Comment attributable to Liberal Candidate for Buninyong Andrew Kilmartin

Buninyong is a great place with many smaller communities, but it can be hard for young people to access services they badly need to manage their mental health.

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