

Mental Health in Primary Schools program

The Victorian Government is committed to supporting the mental health and wellbeing of all Victorians. This is why we have invested \$200 million to expand the Mental Health in Primary Schools program to all government and low-fee non-government primary schools by 2026.

What is the Mental Health in Primary Schools program?

The Victorian Government is providing \$200 million over four years and \$93.7 million ongoing to expand the Mental Health in Primary Schools program to every government and low-fee non-government primary school in Victoria.

Participating schools receive funding to employ a Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader to implement a whole-school approach to mental health and wellbeing.

The program is based on a successful pilot created in partnership between the Department of Education and Training, Murdoch Children's Research Institute and University of Melbourne.

What is the role of the Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader?

The Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader is typically a qualified teacher who will use their knowledge of the in-classroom experience of teachers to complement the school's existing wellbeing team.

The role builds the capacity of school staff to:

- identify mental health concerns in the classroom
- improve referral pathways for students requiring further assessment
- implement effective mental health strategies in-classroom.

What do schools receive?

Government schools will receive funding through the Student Resource Package for between 0.4-1.0 FTE for a Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader, depending on student enrolment numbers. Non-government schools will receive funding of 0.4 FTE for a Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader.

All Mental Health and Wellbeing Leaders will receive comprehensive training and ongoing support.



When will schools receive funding for the program?

The expanded Mental Health in Primary Schools program is being rolled out according to the following schedule:

- **Term 1, 2023:** Schools in Barwon, Brimbank Melton, Hume Moreland, Goulburn, Outer Gippsland
- **Term 1, 2024:** Schools in Western Melbourne, Mallee, Ovens Murray, Southern Melbourne
- **Term 1, 2025:** Schools in Wimmera South West, Loddon Campaspe, Outer Eastern Melbourne, Inner Gippsland
- **Term 1, 2026:** Schools in Central Highlands, North Eastern Melbourne, Inner Eastern Melbourne, Bayside Peninsula.

Any school that participated in the Mental Health in Primary Schools pilot will continue to participate.

Term 1, 2023
 Term 1, 2024
 Term 1, 2025
 Term 1, 2026

Additional mental health supports for primary schools

The [Mental Health and Wellbeing Toolkit](#) provides expert guidance and resources on mental health promotion and support for students, parents and school communities.

A [Quick Guide to Student Mental Health and Wellbeing](#) resource is also available for teachers to access expert guidance and resources to support wellbeing.

More information

For further information, please visit: [Mental Health in Primary Schools](#)

