

Schools Mental Health Fund and Menu

The Victorian Government is committed to supporting the mental health and wellbeing of all Victorians. This is why we have created a new \$200 million Schools Mental Health Fund to support Victorian government schools to select programs, staff and other support from an evidence-based menu. The Menu will help schools best meet their students' mental health and wellbeing needs.

Schools Mental Health Fund

In response to Recommendation 17 of the landmark [Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System](#), the 2021-22 Victorian Budget dedicated \$217.8 million over 4 years and \$87.5 million ongoing, recognising the important role schools play in providing universal support for the mental health and wellbeing of young Victorians.

Central to this is \$200 million over 4 years and \$87 million ongoing to create a new Schools Mental Health Fund and evidence-based Menu to give Victorian government schools confidence in purchasing evidence-based programs and interventions that will meet their students' needs.

Schools Mental Health Fund rollout

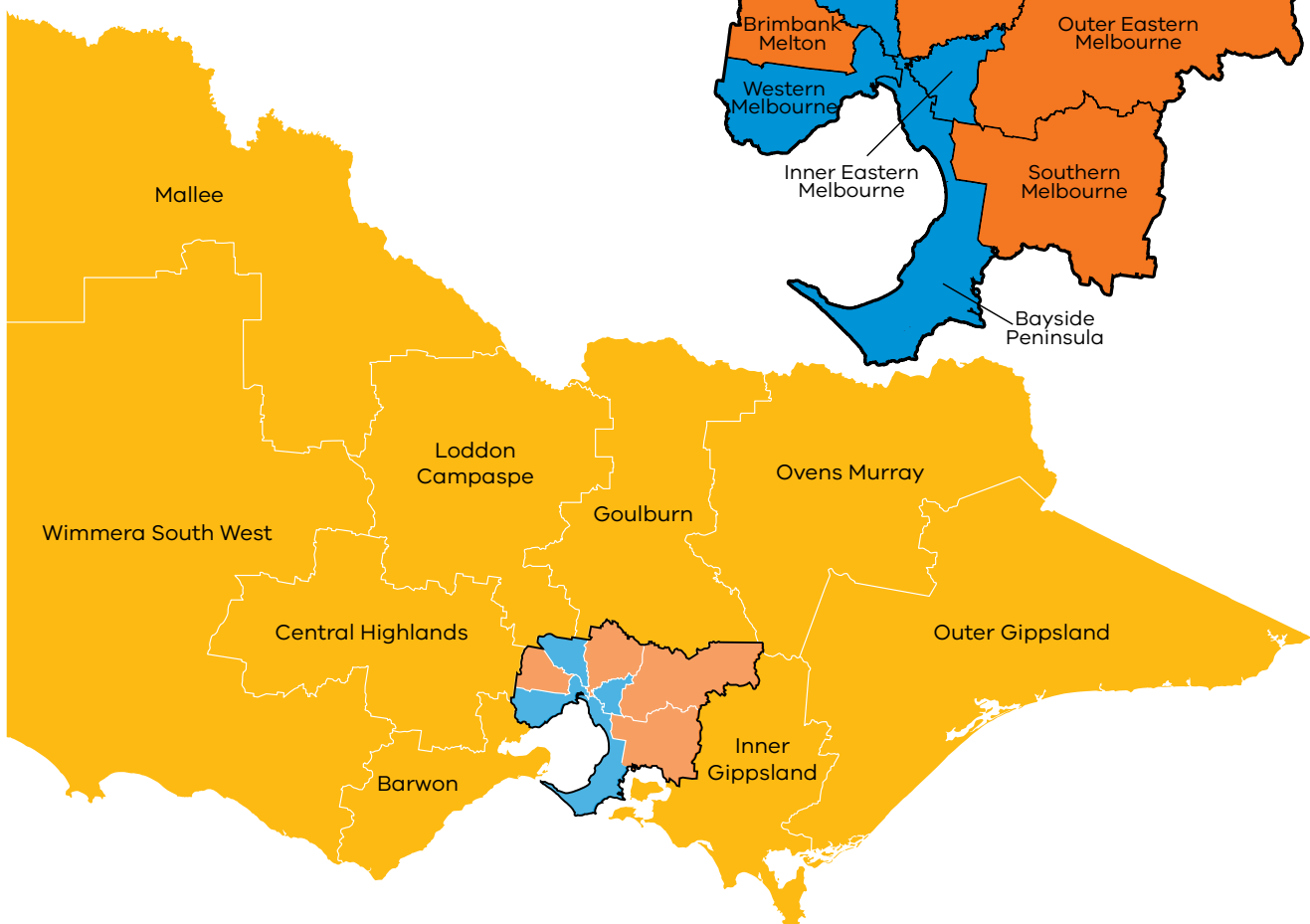
The Schools Mental Health Fund is being rolled out to schools based on their Areas between 2022 and 2024, with rural and regional schools prioritised, according to the following schedule:

- **Term 3, 2022:** Barwon, Central Highlands, Goulburn, Inner Gippsland, Loddon Campaspe, Mallee, Outer Gippsland, Ovens Murray, Wimmera South West
- **Term 1, 2023:** Brimbank Melton, North Eastern Melbourne, Outer Eastern Melbourne, Southern Melbourne
- **Term 1, 2024:** Bayside Peninsula, Hume Moreland, Inner Eastern Melbourne, Western Melbourne

The Fund builds on existing mental health investment including the Mental Health in Primary Schools and Mental Health Practitioners in Secondary Schools initiatives.

Term 3, 2022
 Term 1, 2023
 Term 1, 2024

Magnification of Metro area



Schools Mental Health Menu

The [Schools Mental Health Menu](#) is designed to give schools confidence in identifying evidence-based programs, staff and resources to improve mental health and wellbeing outcomes for students.

The Menu provides over 56 evidence-based programs and initiatives for schools to access across three tiers of intervention, including:

- positive mental health promotion, such as social and emotional learning programs, wellbeing dog programs and support for positive body image
- early intervention and cohort specific support, including training for teachers in trauma-informed practice, and support for diverse cohorts
- more targeted and individualised support for students who need it.

The Department of Education and Training undertook an extensive procurement process to identify quality providers of evidence-based student mental health and wellbeing programs for inclusion on the Menu, which replaces the interim version released in 2021.

Professional learning and tools

Professional learning is available for department staff on the [Mental Health Reform Division Arc](#) page. School staff are encouraged to follow this page to keep up to date with new learning and development opportunities.

The [Schools Mental Health Planning Tool](#) has been developed to support schools to think about how they spend their funding. The tool helps schools align their Mental Health funding with the FISO Improvement Cycle.

The [Skills Checklist](#) outlines the professional roles, key activities, and minimum expected qualifications of staff available for schools to purchase through the Menu.

Additional mental health supports

The [Mental Health and Wellbeing Toolkit](#) provides expert guidance and resources on mental health and wellbeing promotion and support aimed at schools and school communities, health and wellbeing workforces and mental health practitioners.

A [Quick Guide to Student Mental Health and Wellbeing](#) resource is also available for students, parents and carers looking to access expert guidance and resources to support wellbeing in one place.

