PROVIDING WORLD-CLASS MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

National is committed to providing New Zealanders with high quality mental health services as part of a stronger public health service. Good mental health and wellbeing are important for all New Zealanders and their families. Thousands of people and their families live with the burden of mental illness. National believes these people deserve our support.

We are focused on improving access to mental health services so that more people get the support they need and get it faster. Funding for mental health services has increased every year since the National-led Government took office, with a total funding increase of over $200 million.

We are improving access to services through family doctors to help people cope with conditions such as depression. We are improving access to alcohol and drug treatment services, and focusing resources on young people, as this is a time of life when mental health issues often arise.

The Prime Minister’s $62 million Youth Mental Health Project is expanding primary mental health services, reducing waiting times for child and adolescent mental health services, and has established an online e-therapy tool.

National will continue supporting better mental health services for New Zealanders and their families.

National will continue to improve mental health and addiction treatment services for New Zealanders.

POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

→ Continue to provide New Zealanders with quality mental health services.


→ Continue to implement the Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2013-16.

→ Provide better mental health support for those with cancer.
NATIONAL IS...

INVESTING IN MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

✓ Increased total mental health funding by over $200 million.
✓ Investing $62 million in the Prime Minister’s Youth Mental Health Project, which is providing better and earlier help for young people suffering from mental illness.
✓ Developed the Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2013-16.
✓ Investing $18 million in perinatal and infant mental health services, aimed at women experiencing acute mental illness in the 12 months after they have had a baby.
✓ Increasing investment in school-based health services by $10 million.
✓ Investing $11.3 million to expand primary mental health services to more young people through GPs, school-based health services and Youth One Stop Shops.
✓ Doubled funding for the National Depression Initiative to $5 million.
✓ Added mental health nursing staff to National’s voluntary bonding scheme.
✓ Investing $33 million in youth forensic mental health services.

OUR RESULTS SO FAR

BETTER MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

• Online support is now available for young people with mental health needs.
• Young people with mental health or addiction problems are receiving treatment faster than ever before.
• Nine out of ten young people, under twenty, who need non-urgent mental health or addiction treatment are being seen within eight weeks.
• Improved access to more services
• Extra resources and support are available for early intervention in mental health services.
WHAT WE WILL DO NEXT…

1. IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION TREATMENT SERVICES

→ Continue to implement the Rising to the Challenge: The Mental Health and Addiction Service Development Plan 2012–2017

The plan, which was developed in consultation with mental health and addiction service providers, and with consumers of mental health services, sets out actions to improve the delivery of mental health services for New Zealanders. These are:

→ Increase the amount of time mental health workers spend with patients.
→ Increase access to primary care for people with mental health and addiction problems.
→ Further reduce waiting times for mental health specialists
→ Increase access to specialist services for youth offenders.
→ Further reduce waiting times for child and youth services.
→ Increase access to child and youth services.

2. IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR THOSE WITH CANCER

National recognises that being diagnosed with cancer is a difficult time for patients and their families.

National announced new cancer initiatives in the last Budget to better support the emotional needs of cancer patients. This included providing specialist psychological staff and up to 20 cancer support workers in the major centres to support cancer sufferers.

This more personalised service means better treatment and a less stressful experience for patients.

DON’T PUT IT ALL AT RISK

Labour would:

✗ Talk about making mental health a priority, as they did in their last term in government, but still not do anything about it.

✗ Deliver more bureaucracy, committees, strategies and working groups, at the expense of frontline health services.