

Mental Health: The Necessary Focus of Australia's Recovery

Australian medical students are disappointed that tonight's Federal Budget has not allocated any funding to addressing the severity of the medical workforce mental health crisis.

"Medical students are at a greater risk of mental health conditions and suicide than the wider Australian community," AMSA President, Daniel Zou, said.

"The profound challenges of 2020, from a disastrous bushfire season to a viral pandemic, mean that the psychological and social health of Australians require additional mental health support. Everything from COVID-19 to medical education this year has further overwhelmed the scarce mental health support initiatives for medical students.

"While AMSA welcomes the broad commitment to mental health in the Federal Budget tonight, it requires greater consistency and focused investment.

"This Health Budget fails to recognise the compounded mental health challenges of medical professionals and that of the future medical workforce. This should be a national priority.

"Only \$2.1 million out of the additional \$5.7 billion is announced to continue the Prevention Hub via Black Dog Institute and Everymind. AMSA calls on the Federal government on further clarification on scope of this funding.

"There is a clear need for funding targeted towards the mental health of the medical workforce, and to support implementation of the Everymind National Medical Framework for Junior Doctor and Medical Student Mental Ill-Health."

The Everymind National Medical Framework for Junior Doctor and Medical Student Mental Ill-Health, supported through the Prevention Hub via Black Dog Institute and Everymind, provides a structured approach to high-level framework setting a reform agenda. This positions the wellbeing of the medical profession as a national priority that requires a collective and strategic approach.

AMSA is the peak representative body for Australia's 17,000 medical students. AMSA Mental Health is working to provide proactive resources to promote student wellbeing and connect students with reliable mental health support services. AMSA President, Daniel Zou, will be available for commentary on phone and videoconference.

Attachment

AMSA	2020-21	Pre-Budget	Submission
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<https://www.amsa.org.au/sites/amsa.org.au/files/AMSA%202020%20Pre-Budget%20Submission%20FINAL.pdf>

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