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### Primary health network welcomes headspace funding

Young people across Central Queensland, Wide Bay and the Sunshine Coast will soon have improved access to mental health services, with the announcement today of a significant funding boost for headspace centres.

Health Minister Greg Hunt said the federal government is committing an additional \$24.2 million to headspace centres, which will go towards capital improvements and work to help reduce wait times for appointments.

Pattie Hudson, CEO of Central Queensland, Wide Bay, Sunshine Coast PHN, one of the Commonwealth-funded primary health networks which commission headspace services, said she was delighted with today's announcement.

"Now, more than ever, we need to invest in the mental health and wellbeing of our young people and this funding from the Morrison government will pay real dividends for our local communities," Ms Hudson said.

"One in four young Australians are affected by a mental health illness every year and this announcement shows a real commitment by the government to address that figure, at a time when we need it more than ever.

"Young people have been profoundly impacted by the recent pandemic, with COVID-19 not only disrupting their daily lives, but impacting future opportunities for work, study and travel.

"A robust headspace service means young people, and their families, can access support in a welcoming space they can call their own."

headspace provides free or low-cost age-appropriate mental health services for young people aged between 12 and 25.

Mental health services are tailored to the individual, with a focus on four key areas - mental health, related physical health, substance use, and social and vocational support.

A portion of the funding package announced today will go towards making capital improvements to some headspace sites across the Central Queensland, Wide Bay, Sunshine Coast region, and towards increasing access to therapeutic support for clients, and to training programs for staff, at others.

PHN CEO Pattie Hudson said the funding will have a flow on effect in the community.

"As well as making these kind of spaces more welcoming and accessible to young people, any investment in training means headspace staff will be able to share their knowledge and skills with the surrounding rural and remote communities," Ms Hudson said.

For more details on headspace visit [headspace.org.au](https://headspace.org.au)

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