



Community is the medicine · Green Zones · Prevention Fund · Healing Centres · Rat Park not jail

1 in 5

Australians per year
Experience mental illness

#1

Cause of death
Australians under 45

200

New psychiatry positions
First term nationally

10

Green Zone pilots
First term — then national

THE PROBLEM — A SYSTEM THAT TREATS BREAKDOWN, NOT BUILDS WELLBEING

SYSTEM — SYMPTOMS NOT CAUSES

Built around pharmaceutical management and clinical therapy. Both have value. Neither is sufficient. The conditions that produce mental illness — loneliness, purposelessness, housing

SUICIDE — THE EPIDEMIC WE IGNORE

Leading cause of death for Australians under 45. More die by suicide than road accidents. In Farrer the rates are higher than the national average. Aboriginal Australians die at twice the national

LONELINESS — SILENT EPIDEMIC

Chronic loneliness carries health risks comparable to smoking 15 cigarettes a day. It drives depression, anxiety, cognitive decline, and early death. Spreading fastest among young people

THE MMP SOLUTION

COMMUNITY IS THE MEDICINE

Every community gets a Green Zone — a permanent funded space designed around connection, purpose, and belonging. Not a clinic. Not a government office. A place where people go for sport, food, conversation, and community. The primary instrument of loneliness policy. 10 pilots first term, then national rollout.

PREVENTION IN SCHOOLS

Meditation, mindfulness, and mental health literacy taught in every school from primary level — core curriculum alongside literacy and numeracy. School-based mental health practitioners in every secondary school, federally funded. Children who learn to manage their mental states at 10 have a fundamentally different life at 40.

MEDICARE — FULLY FUNDED ZERO GAP

10 sessions of psychology per year — fully funded, zero gap. The arbitrary limit that leaves people mid-treatment is ended. 200 additional public psychiatry positions nationally. Mental illness requiring a specialist should not be treated with a waiting list. Every new parent screened for postnatal depression.

RURAL — TELEHEALTH WORKFORCE

Telehealth psychology fully funded at the same rebate as in-person — the geographic lottery ends. HECS forgiveness for psychologists, psychiatrists, and mental health nurses who commit to 5 years regional service. Scholarships and housing support. The communities that need help most cannot attract professionals. MMP changes the incentives.

DRUG EPIDEMIC — RAT PARK NOT JAIL

The opposite of addiction is connection. Rebuild the community, restore the purpose, create the economic future — and the drug's grip loosens. Treatment over prosecution for users. Mandatory sentencing for suppliers. The Green Zone, the SBC corridor town, the billion trees workforce — give young Australians somewhere to go and something to become.

MEN'S MENTAL HEALTH — TARGETED

Peer support networks and outreach designed around how men actually seek help — through activity, work, and mates. Men's sheds, sporting clubs, agricultural networks, and workplaces as mental health access points. Suicide prevention targeting high-risk groups: farmers, construction workers, FIFO workers, young men in regional communities.

LONELINESS — NAMED AND FUNDED

Loneliness named as a public health crisis in the first term. The Green Zone. The billion trees workforce. The national service program. Community sport and arts funded as mental health infrastructure — because they are. A person who has teammates has a reason to show up. Connection is the medicine no pharmaceutical can replicate.

HEALING CENTRES — BEYOND CLINIC

Healing Centres in every regional community: mental health support, physical health, community connection, and social services integrated. Not a hospital. A place where someone in crisis comes without navigating a system that makes them feel like a patient. Open outside business hours. Accessible without a referral.

FIRST NATIONS MENTAL HEALTH

Culturally safe services designed by communities, delivered by communities, on Country. Healing programs integrating traditional cultural practice, connection to Country, and community ceremony as genuine therapeutic modalities. Community-designed, community-controlled, culturally grounded — not a clinical system imposed on a different population.

PREVENTION FUND — PROTECTED

A Prevention Fund — dedicated Commonwealth funding for upstream mental health investment: school programs, community infrastructure, loneliness strategy, early intervention. Constitutionally protected from budget cuts. Every dollar spent on early intervention saves multiple dollars in clinical treatment, NDIS support, and hospital presentations.

STIGMA — BROKEN BY COMMUNITY

The Green Zone normalises help-seeking by making mental wellbeing a community conversation, not a clinical secret. Peer workers with lived experience in every Healing Centre. National campaigns built around real stories, real Australians, real recovery. In rural communities, the farmers' network, the local footy club, and the pub are the access points.

CHILDREN — EARLY INTERVENTION

Mental health conditions typically emerge before age 24. The earlier the intervention, the better the outcome. No systematic early intervention in schools. No mental health literacy curriculum. No universal screening. Children who develop anxiety at age 10 frequently receive no help until the condition is entrenched. MMP ends this.



The opposite of addiction is connection · Community is the medicine · MMP prescribes it

CURRENT FAILURE

MMP SOLUTION

System built to treat breakdown — not prevent it. Clinical system overwhelmed, social causes ignored.

Green Zones in every community. Prevention Fund. Upstream investment protected. Fence at the top of the cliff.

Suicide is the #1 killer of Australians under 45. Rates in Farrer above national average. Political response inadequate for decades.

Suicide prevention programs targeting farmers, men, FIFO workers, young people. Healing Centres. Telehealth. Men's specific outreach.

Chronic loneliness a silent epidemic — no policy, no infrastructure, no national strategy.

Loneliness named as public health crisis. Green Zones. Community sport and arts funded as mental health infrastructure.

10-session Medicare limit leaves people mid-treatment. Specialist waiting lists. No postnatal screening.

Medicare fully funded — zero gap, 10+ sessions. 200 new public psychiatry positions. Every new parent screened for postnatal depression.

Geographic lottery — regional Australians wait months or have no local service at all.

Telehealth fully funded at same rebate as in-person. HECS forgiveness for regional mental health workforce. Scholarships and housing.

Methamphetamine epidemic met with enforcement. Underlying despair not addressed. Rat cage, not Rat Park.

Treatment over prosecution for users. Mandatory sentencing for suppliers. Rebuild community — Rat Park not jail.

Men die by suicide at three times the rate of women. System poorly designed for how men experience distress.

Men's-specific peer support, outreach through activity and mates. Men's sheds, sporting clubs, workplaces as access points.

Children develop mental health conditions before 24. No early intervention, no screening, no curriculum.

Mental health literacy in every school from primary level. School-based practitioners in every secondary school, federally funded.

First Nations communities served by clinical systems designed for a different population. Cultural mismatch.

Culturally safe services designed by communities, delivered on Country, integrating traditional healing practices.

NDIS costs \$40B and growing. Significant growth driven by conditions early intervention would have prevented.

Prevention Fund protects upstream investment. Every dollar on early intervention saves multiple in clinical and NDIS costs.

"The opposite of addiction is not sobriety. It is connection. The opposite of mental illness is not the absence of symptoms. It is a life with purpose, belonging, and the skills to navigate difficulty. Community is the medicine. MMP prescribes it." — Brett Murrell, MMP Candidate for Farrer

★ **VOTE 1 — BRETT MURRELL — FARRER — SATURDAY 9 MAY 2026** ★