

PRIMARY PREVENTION MODEL FOR RURAL AND REMOTE MENTAL HEALTH

KEY PROBLEMS

In 2019 the suicide rate for residents in very remote areas was



times that of residents in major cities.

SOLUTIONS

Upstream primary / secondary prevention.

In 2016–17, people living in remote areas accessed Medicare-subsidised mental health services at a rate of

times less than people living in major cities. **Funding is insufficiently focused** on upstream prevention & early intervention services, as well as services that are truly person centred.

Focusing on new parents, infants, children, youth and families. **Reducing barriers to help seeking** through providing timely, flexible and place-based services, with open referral sources and no age restrictions.

The Outback Futures Community Facilitation Model **mobilises communities** to identify their own mental health and wellbeing issues, **co-designing solutions** to achieve long term, intergenerational whole of community change, **positively impacting suicide rates and mental health outcomes.**

It is a primary/secondary prevention approach working with children and families to facilitate holistic change. The key to long-term and lasting change is to utilise multidisciplinary teams in a multi-modal approach, to address mental health concerns today, whilst mobilising the community through building mental health literacy and self-efficacy to ensure genuine ownership and empowerment.

futures	NUMBER OF REGIONS	COST P.A.	3 YEAR TOTAL
OPTION 1	8	\$2,609,600	\$7,828,800
OPTION 2	14	\$4,566,800	\$13,700,400
OPTION 3	36	\$11,743,200	\$35,229,600

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OUTCOMES TO DATE

- Completed a successful demonstration phase in 6 Queensland remote communities.
- In some of our communities our clinicians are the longest serving in their discipline.
- On average **6% of a remote region's population** connect with an Outback Futures service.

4392 appointments in 7 regions in 2020.

- We have **trusted and active relationships** with many stakeholders including mayors, councillors, schools, School of the Air, governesses, GPs, workplaces, local business, graziers, indigenous leaders.
- Critical Incident often we have been the first people called when a community crisis occurs, demonstrating trusted relationship and community confidence.

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