

Appendix 4: Model Feasibility

There was some support from veterans and first responders to contribute financially to the funding of wellbeing centres/hubs, with 29% of respondents indicating a willingness to pay for some private services. Co-contribution for government services was the most popular form of co-contribution of respondents (55% of responses). Close to half of participants, 211, did not reply to price sensitivity questions, and a few who provided negative comments about the idea of payment.

Table 1: Payment options endorsed by some veterans and first responders for wellbeing services

| | Total | Veteran | First Responder | Both |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Co-contribute for government services. | 153 (55%) | 34 (45%) | 74 (62%) | 37 (58%) |
| Want or need free services | 136 (49%) | 41 (54%) | 56 (47%) | 29 (45%) |
| Pay for private services (e.g., yoga, counselling) | 81 (29%) | 16 (21%) | 42 (35%) | 20 (31%) |

Note: Respondents could give more than one answer

A series of standardised price sensitivity questions were asked to elicit the amount that veterans and first responders may be willing to contribute for engagement with support and wellbeing services (that is their price sensitivity) is shown in Table 2. Results suggest that those respondents who can afford to pay, would be willing to personally contribute around \$28.14 per hour of wellness service. This would represent the level of payment that would not be considered expensive but provide value for money to them. Note that 211, respondents did not answer these questions.

Table 2: Price Sensitivity for wellness services per hour as reported by Tasmanian veterans and first responders

| | Number | | | | | Percentiles | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|---------|---------|---------|----------------|-------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| | Respondents | Mean | Median | Mode | Std. Deviation | 10 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 80 | 90 |
| At what price per hour of consultation of wellness services that you would not consider paying for it? | 199 | \$58.28 | \$50.00 | \$50.00 | \$47.31 | \$0 | \$20.00 | \$30.00 | \$30.00 | \$45.00 | \$50.00 | \$50.00 | \$75.00 | \$100.00 |
| At what price per hour of consultation of wellness services starting to get expensive, so that it is not out of the question, but you would consider paying for it? | 199 | \$51.45 | \$50.00 | \$50.00 | \$37.83 | \$0 | \$20.00 | \$30.00 | \$30.00 | \$40.00 | \$50.00 | \$50.00 | \$60.00 | \$80.00 |
| At what price per hour of consultation of wellness services would you consider it to be bargain, a great buy for the money? | 197 | \$28.14 | \$25.00 | \$30.00 | \$24.47 | \$0 | \$10.00 | \$15.00 | \$15.00 | \$20.00 | \$25.00 | \$30.00 | \$30.00 | \$50.00 |
| At what price per hour of consultation of wellness services would you consider to be priced so low that you feel the quality couldn't be very good? | 188 | \$16.48 | \$10.00 | \$0 | \$17.67 | \$0 | \$0 | \$5.00 | \$5.00 | \$10.00 | \$15.00 | \$20.00 | \$20.00 | \$30.00 |

Tasmanian State Government Funding for services relevant to veterans and first responders.

COVID-19 Mental Health Funding announced after the project data collection period:

The Tasmanian Government has recently announced \$3 million for mental health services as part of a stimulus package announced by the Premier the Hon Peter Gutwein MP on 27 March 2020. This funding was for whole of population which may assist veterans and first responders. This included:

- \$875 000 to establish a dedicated 1800 phone number to allow the Tasmanian community to call in and receive psychosocial support and provide a reach out service for older Tasmanians and industries significantly impacted. This became the Tasmanian Lifeline number.
- \$360 000 for increased capacity to provide mental health advice, support and referral for vulnerable living in rural areas.
- \$450 000 for supporting providers to use technology to keep vulnerable Tasmanians connected.
- \$120 000 for targeted support to Tasmania's migrant community regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.
- \$600 000 for increased capacity to provide mental health support for Tasmanians living in supported accommodation.

Supporting our Veterans COVID-19 Grants Funding

\$500 000 was provided for grants to commercially trading RSL sub-branches and ex-serving organisations impacted by COVID-19 (see successful applicants here https://www.communities.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0032/127886/List-of-Successful-Appllicants-Supporting-Our-Veterans-COVID19-Grants-Program.pdf).

- Grants of up to \$10 000 were available to eligible organisations to assist with meeting direct costs, lost income and additional costs as a result of COVID-19 restrictions.
- Grants of up to \$25 000 were available to eligible organisations to support new initiatives to meet an identified need that was a result of COVID-19 restrictions.
- 53 Grants were awarded to 52 organisations primarily to cover income losses as a result of not being able to trade or fundraise.
- Total funding distributed was \$418 918
- Devonport RSL was awarded two grants, including one grant to meet the identified need of veterans (in the form of free meals for their members).

2020 State Budget Mental Health Funding

Additional to deliver a well-integrated and flexible mental health, alcohol and other drugs service for the entire community. This includes:

- \$1.2 million for community mental health, including alcohol and other drug, support initiatives;
- \$2.1 million to community organisations to support individuals experiencing mental health difficulties as a result of issues associated with the coronavirus pandemic;
- \$4.9 million over two years to build on existing, and launch a number of new programs, to improve services under the Reform Agenda for the Alcohol and other Drugs Sector in Tasmania;
- \$4.1 million over two years to address priority areas in the Mental Health Reform Agenda;
- \$4 million over two years to address the recommendations of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Review
- Ongoing funding for mental health beds, including 15 new beds at St John’s Park and 12 new beds at the redeveloped Peacock Centre;
- Continuing funding for the Mental Health Hospital-in-the-Home service trial, while the St John’s Park centre is being developed, enabling people to avoid hospital while receiving hospital-level care;
- Support for community-based alcohol and drug rehabilitation beds at Ulverstone and other locations around the State; and
- Continuing the Housing and Accommodation Support Initiative trial which aims to provide better clinical and psychosocial rehabilitation supports linked to stable housing and supported accommodation.

Funding for Neighbourhood Houses COVID-19 Funding

- \$700 000 was provided to Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania, as the peak body, to distribute to Houses to provide support to our communities during the response to, and recovery from COVID-19.

Other Funding

Neighbourhood Houses receive a range of funding from the Tasmanian Government including from the Department of Communities Tasmania, to deliver community services, the Department of Health to run initiatives related to increasing the health and wellbeing of Tasmanian communities and the Department of Education to run initiatives related to increasing the literacy and numeracy of Tasmanian communities.

Funding for Men’s Sheds

- \$115 005 in annual peak body funding, with the purposes of representing the interests in of Men’s Sheds in Tasmania
- \$125 000 for annum from 2018-2021 for the Tasmanian Men’s Shed Association Grant Program, which provides grants to eligible Men’s Sheds for capital works, and tools.

COVID-19 Funding for Men's Sheds

- \$60 000 to keep members connected during the response to and recovery from COVID-19.

Individual Men's Sheds may also receive funding from other Tasmanian Government competitive grants programs, including those administered by the Department of Health, for the purposes of increasing the health and wellbeing of Tasmanian communities.

Newspaper articles

- <https://www.examiner.com.au/story/6658282/launceston-right-place-for-veterans-wellbeing-centre-lambie/>
- <https://www.examiner.com.au/story/6801600/veteran-wellbeing-centre-under-consideration/>
- http://minister.dva.gov.au/media_releases/2020/jun/va062.htm
- <https://www.theadvocate.com.au/story/6806897/tasmanian-veterans-and-families-to-get-a-say-in-support-they-receive/>
- <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-07-03/ptsd-support-hub-for-veterans-and-frontline-workers/12420744>
- <https://www.examiner.com.au/story/6824721/more-talk-and-no-action-for-our-homeless-veterans/>
- http://minister.dva.gov.au/media_releases/2020/sep/va110.htm