

Australia opens cutting edge care centre for mental health

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The \$14 million Urgent Mental Health Care Centre (UMHCC) in Adelaide is the first of eight to be opened under a \$114.5 million trial funded by the Australian Government



Thousands of South Australians needing urgent mental health assistance will now be able to access cutting edge out-of-hospital care, with the doors opened this week at a nation-first mental health centre that is an alternative to a hospital emergency department.

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Greg Hunt, Minister for Health, said the Adelaide Urgent Mental Health Care Centre (UMHCC) would give adults access to a range of mental health support services during extended operating hours, from midday to midnight.

"This centre is a genuine alternative to the hospital emergency department. People seeking help, especially in times of crisis, will have access to on-the-spot treatment, advice, and support provided by a variety of mental health professionals," said Hunt.

It will initially accommodate up to 6 patients at a time, with a maximum capacity of 18 patients by May.

Stephen Wade, South Australian Minister, Health and Wellbeing, officially opened the centre and said the UMHCC delivers on the Marshall Liberal Government's commitment to provide better services for people with mental health challenges.

The new centre will focus on the approximately 12,800 mental health consumers who presented to EDs but did not need to be admitted to hospital to have their urgent care needs met.

The seven other centres are expected to open in other jurisdictions by the end of next year.