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Youth Mental Health Petition

To the Honourable Speaker and Members of the Federal House of Representatives.

This petition of the concerned residents of the Western Riverina Region, an area that includes the communities of Hay, Hillston, Lake Cargelligo, Leeton, Narrandera, Darlington Point, Coleambally and Griffith, draws to the attention of the House the increasing incidence of mental health issues among young people within our communities. Statistically, one in seven teenagers and one in four people age 18 to 25 years suffers from mental illness, with episodes of depression, severe anxiety or worse. Mental health problems can, and have, cause devastation to individuals and families within our communities.

We, the undersigned, ask the House to call upon the Federal Government to provide additional services in the Western Riverina to assist young people from our communities that are suffering with mental health and wellbeing problems. Specifically, we request that funding be provided to establish a Headspace Centre in Griffith (a one-stop-shop that focuses on 12-25 year olds) to reduce some of the gaps that currently exist in youth mental health service provision and assist those young people to live full and active lives within our communities.