



Petition fights for youth mental health centre

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A local suicide prevention group says it hopes thousands of residents will sign a petition to lobby the Federal Government for a youth mental health facility in the region.

• [Map: Mackay 4740](#)

Debbie Guzowski from the Grapevine Group says Headspace centres are specifically set up to deal with mental health issues of young people aged between 12 and 25.

Townsville already has a centre operating and Cairns has been promised one.

Ms Guzowski says a centre is badly needed in Mackay.

"We're in a regional and rural setting, we have additional pressures with our cost of living and the mining community, shift workers, there's a lot of broken families in that situation," she said.

"We have a lot of needs that other regions don't have.

"Mackay really needs to be right up there on that list. We shouldn't be the ones to come last.

"I don't know how they could possibly say no to a region that has the second highest rate of suicide in Queensland but obviously we've missed out twice before, so I think it's imperative that people are signing and letting them know that Mackay shouldn't be forgotten."

The petition closes on May 6 and will be presented to Parliament on May 10.

Tags: [youth-issues](#), [mental-health](#), [activism-and-lobbying](#), [mackay-4740](#)

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