

**FUNDING DISPARITIES BETWEEN
MAINSTREAM MH PROVIDERS FOR MAINSTREAM MH PROGRAMS
V's
CALD PROVIDERS FOR CALD –SPECIFIC MH PROGRAMS**

A recent search by Multicultural Mental Health Australia of the Australian Government's Mental Health and Wellbeing program, Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA), Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) and Department of Veterans' Affairs websites has revealed a limited amount of information on where funds from the Government's key mental health programs are being allocated.

Where a detailed breakdown of such mental health funding exist, a poor picture emerges of the priority given to multicultural or ethno-specific providers for CALD specific mental health programs and services..

Some examples include:

- **Mental Health Respite** Initiative, administered by FaHCSIA, totalling \$224.7 million over 5 years (2006-07 to 2010-11):
 - **Round 1** of funding, announced in October 2007 and April 2008, funded 67 organisations, none of which were multicultural or ethno-specific.
 - **Round 2** of funding, announced in June 2009, funded 16 organisations, one of which was a multicultural provider.

- **Personal Helpers and Mentors** Initiative, administered by FaHCSIA, totalling \$284.8 million over 5 years (2006-07 to 2010-11):
 - **Round 1** of funding, announced in April 2007, funded 19 organisations across 28 sites, none of which were multicultural or ethno-specific.
 - **Round 2** of funding, announced in September 2007, funded 23 organisations across 48 sites, none of which were multicultural or ethno-specific.
 - **Round 3** of funding, announced in February 2009, funded 40 organisations across 79 sites, none of which were multicultural or ethno-specific.
 - **The Round 4** of funding, Remote Service Delivery Sites funding, announced in February 2010, funded 6 organisations across 7 sites, none of which were multicultural or ethno-specific.
 - **Round 5** of funding, announced in April 2010, funded 9 organisations across 10 sites, none of which were multicultural or ethno-specific.

- Support for **Day to Day Living in the Community** program, administered by DoHA, totalling \$45.5 million over 5 years (2006-07 to 2010-11):
 - **In Phase 1** funding, awarded between 2006 and 2009 (totalling more than \$21 million), 39 organisations across 49 sites were funded, none of whom were multicultural or ethno-specific.

It is impossible to ascertain the scale and proportion of Australian Government mental health funding that is allocated to multicultural or ethno-specific agencies. These organisations play a key role in servicing the 3.1 million Australians – 16% of our nation – that speaks a language other than English at home (based on the 2006 Census).

And of the vast bulk of funds that are allocated to 'mainstream' organisations, it is not possible to ascertain how the Government is ensuring that these organisations are adequately addressing the barriers to access and equity in services faced by many Australians of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. These barriers include poor English proficiency, lack of interpreter access, stigma, poor mental health literacy, different understandings of mental illness and inappropriate models of care.

FUNDING FOR NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH PROJECTS/INITIATIVES/SERVICES BY AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT - As at Dec 2010

Program or initiative	Responsible Australian Government Department	Total funding amount	Funding duration
1. Additional Education Places, Scholarships and Clinical Training in Mental Health	Dept. Education, Employment & Workplace Relations - DEEWR	\$103.5 million	5 years (2007 to 2011)
2. Connections	DEERW	\$34.9 million	2 years (2007-08 to 2008-09)
3. Helping People with Mental Illness to Enter and Remain in Employment	DEERW	\$40 million	5 years (2006-07 to 2010-11)
4. Youth Connections	DEERW	\$286.8 million	4 years
5. Mental Health Community Based Services	Dept. of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs - FAHCSIA	\$45.2 million	5 years (2006-07 to 2010-11)
6. Mental Health Respite Initiative	FAHCSIA	\$224.7 million	5 years (2006-07 to 2010-11)
7. Personal Helpers and Mentors Initiative	FAHCSIA	\$284.8 million	5 years (2006-07 to 2010-11)
8. Better Outcomes in Mental Health Care	Dept. of Health & Ageing - DoHA	\$142.7 million	3 years (2006-07 to 2008-09) - now ongoing
9. Beyondblue: The national depression initiative	DoHA	\$39.6 million	3 years (2006-07 to 2008-09)
10. Early Intervention Services for Parents, Children and Young People	DoHA	\$28.1 million	5 years (2006-07 to 2010-11)
11. Funding for Telephone Counselling, Self Help and Web-based Support Programmes	DoHA	\$56.9 + \$2.4 million	5 years (2006-07 to 2010-11)
12. Headspace	DoHA	\$51.8 + \$15 million	4 years (2005-06 to 2008-09)
13. Improved Services for People with Drug and Alcohol Problems and Mental Illness	DoHA	\$65.7 million	5 years (2006-07 to 2010-11)
14. Improving the Capacity of Workers in Indigenous Communities	DoHA	\$13.79 million	4 years (2010-11 to 2013-14)
15. KidsMatter Early Childhood	DoHA	\$6.5 + \$2.9 million	3 years (2010 to 2012)
16. KidsMatter Primary	DoHA	\$12.2 + \$6.5 million	3 years (2010 to 2012)
17. Mental Health Council of Australia	DoHA	\$2.6 million p/a	1 year (2009-10)
18. Mental Health in Tertiary Curricula	DoHA	\$5.6 million	5 years (2006-07 to 2010-11)
19. Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program	DoHA	unknown	unknown
20. Mental Health Services in Rural and Remote Areas	DoHA	\$60.4 million	5 years (2006-07 to 2010-11)
21. Mental Health Support for Drought Affected Communities	DoHA	\$10.1 million	2 years (2007-08 to 2008-09)
22. Mindframe National Media Initiative	DoHA	\$3.8 million	3 years (2006-07 to 2008-09)
23. MindMatters	DoHA	\$12.3 million	2 years (2008-09 to 2009-10)
24. National Advisory Council on Mental Health	DoHA	\$2.4 million	3 years (2008-09 to 2010-11)
25. National Comorbidity Initiative	DoHA	\$17.9 million	7 years (2003-04 to 2009-10)
26. Support for Day to Day Living in the Community	DoHA	\$45.5 million	5 years (2006-07 to 2010-11)
27. National Perinatal Depression Plan	DoHA	\$55 + \$30 million	5 years (2008-09 to 2012-13)

28. National Suicide Prevention Strategy	DoHA	\$127.1 million	6 years (2006-07 to 2011-12)
29. Response Ability	DoHA	\$1.3 million	ended 2008-09
30. SANE Australia	unknown	unknown	unknown
31. The Right Mix – Your Health and Alcohol	Dept. Veterans' Affairs -DVA	unknown	unknown
32. Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service	DVA	unknown	Ongoing
33. Better Access to Psychiatrists, Psychologists and General Practitioners through the Medical Benefits Schedule	Medicare Australia	\$753.8 million	
34. Program of Assistance for Survivors of Torture and Trauma	DoHA	\$4.8 million (p/a for 8 centres) This was increased in June 2011 up to \$55M over 4 yrs	Ongoing
35. Multicultural Mental Health Australia	DOHA	\$2.7 million over 3 yrs 2008-11 Jun 2011 DoHA changed the MMHA program provider with the same amount \$2.7M -no CPI increase given	for 3 yrs (2008-09 to 2010-11) and for 3 yrs from 2011-2014

National Health & Medical Research Council: Funding allocated for CALD populations/projects as at Jan 2011

1. Ethnographic, treatment, and policy responses to patients presenting for care with chronic medically unexplained symptoms in **Viet Nam**: A randomised control trial of **cognitive behaviour therapy**, structured care and treatment as usual (\$471,278) **NOT in Australia**
2. Enhancing knowledge about the role of human factors, enforcement practices, and legislation in Australia and **China** to inform the development of culturally-specific speed management strategies to reduce road trauma (\$367,834) **NOT Mental Health & NOT in Australia**
3. Understanding **ethnic** differences in the relationships between cardiovascular risk factors and cardiovascular disease in high risk populations \$145,016 **NOT Mental Health**

Analysis:

The provision in November 2010 by the NHMRC of \$471,278 to a CALD-specific mental health project **overseas** ie Viet Nam represents only 3.7% of the total Commonwealth investment, whereas 16% of Australia's population speaks a language other than English at home (based on the 2006 Census).

When the \$471,278 is subtracted, the picture is more alarming in that no funds were provided for research projects investigating the mental health needs, conditions or service use by the CALD community in Australia.

CONCLUSION:

Mental Health funding to CALD agencies and for CALD community needs in Australia is pitiful and not in proportion to the size and need of the CALD population.

As a national peak program, MMHA was not funded on par with other national peaks, yet it was expected to address the range and size of needs of the *whole* CALD population (ie 25% of Australia's population) *all* ethnic and *all* population groups within, *all* mental health topics and issues across the *whole* nation while most of the mainstream peak agencies and programs only deal with one topic or one issue eg *beyondblue* and depression, MindFrame and media etc.

The \$2.7M over 3 yrs now provided to QLD Health for the previous Multicultural Mental Health Australia program only constitutes 1% of the \$2.2B boost in mental health funding promised at the last budget by the Australian Government. Yet the CALD community is significantly larger than this and because of the backlog of needs due to previous neglects in adequate investment for suitable mental health programs and services for CALD communities, and to ensure equity, at least 5% or \$11M of the \$2.2B must be allocated specifically for national multicultural mental health programs in Australia. In addition the funding of a number of providers (not just one) is needed to ensure the availability of a variety of options, models and expertise. Only a serious investment and transparent accountability in the funding of Mental Health programs, services and initiatives by DOHA, FAHCSIA, NHMRC, DEERW will bring the mental health needs of CALD communities on par with their mainstream cohorts.