



HOUSE EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT REPORT TABLED ON MENTAL HEALTH AND WORKFORCE PARTICIPATION

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment has released its report, **“Work Wanted” on mental health and workforce participation.**

It is estimated that one in three Australians will experience mental ill health at some point in their lives. And, some 30 percent of Disability Support Pension recipients have a mental illness.

This report investigates how to assist Australians with mental ill health, overcome barriers to education, training and workforce participation.

The report contains 15 recommendations that focus on:

- reducing stigma and discrimination against people with a mental illness in Australian schools, workplaces and communities;
- working with employer associations and employers to promote the business case for employing people with a mental illness;
- showcasing model workplace strategies, including those that proactively look after the mental health and well-being of all employees;
- disseminating information about the existing support available to employers;
- encouraging the Commonwealth Government, as a major employer, to take a lead role in best practice;
- monitoring the performance of the Disability Employment Services Framework and star-rating system;
- implementing effective communication strategies that advise benefit recipients of the services and supports available to help them find a job and of any changes to these; and
- exploring ways, in partnership with the states and territories through COAG, to support Individual Support and Placement and other service models that integrate employment services and clinical health services.

The Committee Chair, Ms Amanda Rishworth MP, said “The Committee collected a lot of interesting evidence for this inquiry from all around the country and hopes that this report – the first of its kind- can inform a national conversation about this important topic. The overriding message we received was that people with a mental illness want to work; it is part of their recovery and there are a range of ways to achieve this goal.”

The report is available on the Committee’s website: <http://www.aph.gov.au/ee>

For media comment: contact the Committee Chair, Ms Amanda Rishworth MP on 0416 086 019.

For information on the inquiry: contact the Secretariat on (02) 6277 4578 email ee.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the Committee’s website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/ee>