

Submission for Armidale and Regional Australia

1. Urge the mental health staff to complete a comprehensive discharge plan for mentally ill when leaving hospitals. **(THIS IS NOT HAPPENING)**
2. There is a gap between acute care services linking into Non Government Organization support services in the community. We have a crises care and low support needs but nothing in between. Supported accommodation for those classified as high needs would help overcome this problem.
3. There is difficulty of families when admitting someone through the Accident and Emergency section of the hospital. The long waiting time increases agitation levels of patients
4. Look at smoking policies within the hospitals for people with a mental illness. Having to deal with withdrawals from nicotine as well as the acuteness of their illness would be almost unbearable for these patients.
5. Improved communication with mental health staff and carers/family. Carers feel they are often side-stepped and not taken seriously. (eg asked to call police when mental health service should be responding). It is not convenient for mental health workers outside 9-5 hours Monday to Friday to attend to crisis situations.
6. After hours on call service for emergency care.

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On Behalf of the Armidale Support Group