



THE HON MARK BUTLER MP
Minister for Mental Health and Ageing



THE HON KEVIN HUMPHRIES MP
NSW Minister for Mental Health

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

4 April 2013

National Summit Called to Address Lower Life Expectancy of People with a Mental Illness

A National Summit of Mental Health Ministers has been called to address the high rates of premature death and adverse health outcomes amongst people with mental illness.

Federal Minister for Mental Health, Mark Butler, and NSW Minister for Mental Health, Kevin Humphries, announced the Summit to be co-hosted in Sydney in May.

Mr Butler said it was important that states, territories and the Commonwealth work together to address the hidden toll of preventable premature death among people living with a mental illness.

“In our efforts to focus on rehabilitation and recovery from mental illness we have tended to concentrate on the mental health needs of people, but physical health is just as important and we need to make sure those issues aren’t ignored,” Mr Butler said.

“The Summit will discuss strategies to reduce the rate of avoidable death from issues like cardiovascular, respiratory and infectious diseases.”

Mr Humphries said it was vital the State and Federal governments work together to reverse the poor health outcomes experienced by people with a mental illness.

“Knowing that people with a serious mental illness die on average 25 years earlier than the general population and that 70 per cent of people with a serious mental illness die from cardiovascular disease compared to 18 per cent of the general population, I felt compelled to bring together my colleagues across Australia to start turning this around,” Mr Humphries said.

“These are statistics which should concern us all. For most, early death is not caused by their mental illness but is the result of physical health problems such as poor diet, reduced physical exercise and increased likelihood of smoking.

“It is my hope that through this summit we can work together to deliver real improvements in the life expectancy and the quality of life of people with a mental illness.”

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MEDIA RELEASE

5 April 2013

Regions Ready for Key Mental Health Initiative

A key plank of the Gillard Labor Government's \$2.2 billion mental health reform package is a step closer with preferred applicants being selected for the \$550 million *Partners in Recovery* program.

Minister for Mental Health, Mark Butler, said the program would provide coordinated support and flexible funding for people with severe and ongoing mental illness with complex support needs.

"The last thing people with severe mental illness, their families and carers need is to battle with multiple service systems," Mr Butler said.

"Partners in Recovery is designed to pull together services like income support, housing, employment, medical care and education which can often lack coordination."

So far lead organisations in 49 of the 61 Medicare Local regions are ready for stage one of the *Partners in Recovery* rollout, with further work occurring in the remaining regions.

"The fact that so many regions have been successful in the first round of the application process is really encouraging and confirms their readiness to use the program to pull together services and improve the systems' response to the people who need it most."

Mr Butler said contract negotiations with the successful applicants would now begin and funding for the program to roll out shortly after.

The Department of Health and Ageing will work with the 12 remaining regions to ensure they are ready for the full roll-out of the program.

"This will allow additional time for these regions to finalise their *Partners in Recovery* models and to put in place the arrangements that will ensure the strong partnerships needed for this program."

Further details on the *Partners to Recovery* program are available at [the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing website](#)

For more information contact the minister's office on 02 6277 7280

Medicare Local regions to be funded under Stage 1

State/Territory	Medicare Local Region
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
New South Wales	Central Coast NSW
New South Wales	Sydney North Shore and Beaches
New South Wales	Eastern Sydney
New South Wales	Illawarra - Shoalhaven
New South Wales	North Coast NSW
New South Wales	Murrumbidgee
New South Wales	Inner West Sydney
New South Wales	Northern Sydney
New South Wales	South Western Sydney
New South Wales	South Eastern Sydney
New South Wales	Southern NSW
New South Wales	Western NSW
New South Wales	Western Sydney
New South Wales	Nepean - Blue Mountains
New South Wales	New England
New South Wales	Hunter
Northern Territory	Northern Territory
Queensland	Central and North West Queensland
Queensland	West Moreton – Oxley
Queensland	Far North Queensland
Queensland	Central Queensland
Queensland	Greater Metro South Brisbane
Queensland	Darling Downs - South West Queensland
Queensland	Metro North Brisbane
Queensland	Sunshine Coast
Queensland	Wide Bay
Queensland	Gold Coast
South Australia	Central Adelaide and Hills
South Australia	Country North SA
South Australia	Northern Adelaide
South Australia	Southern Adelaide - Fleurieu - Kangaroo Island
Tasmania	Tasmania
Victoria	Gippsland
Victoria	Grampians
Victoria	Hume
Victoria	Loddon - Mallee - Murray
Victoria	Lower Murray
Victoria	Northern Melbourne
Victoria	South Eastern Melbourne
Victoria	Eastern Melbourne
Victoria	Frankston - Mornington Peninsula
Victoria	Inner East Melbourne
Western Australia	Fremantle
Western Australia	Goldfields – Midwest
Western Australia	Perth Central and East Metro
Western Australia	Perth North Metro
Western Australia	Bentley – Armadale
Western Australia	South West WA



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MEDIA RELEASE

8 May 2013

New Mental Health Report Released

A new report by private health insurer Medibank has estimated the overall cost of supporting people with mental illness in Australia at \$28.6 billion per year.

The Medibank/Nous Group report, launched by Minister for Mental Health Mark Butler in Melbourne today, says that while substantial funding is being directed at mental health, the system needs to be better coordinated.

Mr Butler said the report is right in identifying the need to make our service system more 'joined up' and simple to navigate for people with mental illness.

"People with mental illness and their families have enough on their hands without having to fight for decent services," Mr Butler said.

"In 2010-11 we heard from people across Australia who were crying out for a national approach to mental health in Australia and we responded with a \$2.2 billion National Mental Health Reform package to address these issues," Mr Butler said.

"These reforms are beginning to have an impact on the ground with major aspects of the reforms rolling out this year."

Mr Butler said one of the centrepieces of the reform package was the \$550 million Partners in Recovery program which aims to pull together services like income support, housing, employment and medical care, which can often lack coordination, for 24,000 Australians with the severe and chronic mental illness.

"Partners in Recovery responds to precisely the issues being raised in this report and the rubber is about to hit the road on this important new service with preferred tenderers having been selected last month and services being rolled out this year."

"We have also just launched Australia's first ever online virtual mental health clinic – MindSpot – which is now providing free online therapy with trained health professionals right around the country."

"These new reforms add to programs already established like headspace youth mental health services increased service provision under the Access to Allied Psychological Services Program (ATAPS), MindMatters, Kids Matter and many others."

Mr Butler said state and territory governments remain principally responsible for mental health services in Australia and it was important to engage the states on these issues.

“We need to continue to demand better support for people with mental illness through the state-based service system,” Mr Butler said.

For more information contact the Minister’s Office on 02 6277 7280



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**Minister for Mental Health and Ageing
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MEDIA RELEASE

23 May 2013

MAJOR EXPANSION FOR *HEADSPACE* AS EPPIC MOVES FORWARD

The successful *headspace* National Youth Mental Health Foundation will deliver the last remaining element of the Federal Government's \$2.2 billion national mental health reform plan – early psychosis youth services (EPPIC).

Minister for Mental Health Mark Butler said *headspace* had a proven track record in youth mental health, having supported almost 100,000 young Australians since inception.

"The Gillard Government is providing \$247 million to allow *headspace* to broaden their service offering to deliver nine early psychosis youth services across all states and territories to support young people with more complex mental illnesses," Mr Butler said.

Initially, four 'hubs' will be established, building to nine over a three year period, with at least one located in each state and territory. The initial four sites will be located in: western Sydney; south-east Melbourne; western Adelaide; and north-east Perth, with two to be up and running by 1 July.

"These sites will act as service 'hubs' and will be a key element of *headspace*'s growing network across Australia," Mr Butler said.

The sites will deliver the services based on the EPPIC model of care which has been championed by the 2010 Australian of the Year, Professor Patrick McGorry.

This world's best practice model includes: 24 hour home based care and assessment; community education and awareness programs; easy access to acute and sub-acute services; continuing care case management; mobile outreach; medical and psychological interventions; functional recovery, group, family and peer support programs; workforce development; and youth participation.

headspace CEO Chris Tanti said this announcement represents a world-first, once-in-a-generation change in the way young people with serious but less common mental health issues are supported in our community.

“*headspace* is extremely proud and excited to now be leading this effort,” Mr Tanti said.

“*headspace* has been providing mental health support in a youth friendly environment since 2006. Young people trust *headspace* and recognise it as an accessible and safe place to get help for their problems.

“Young people and their families will now be able to walk into *headspace*, regardless of the mental health issues they are facing, and be confident they will get the right support at the right time.”

Professor McGorry welcomed the development, saying “the decision to channel early psychosis care through the national *headspace* platform is a welcome breakthrough in mental health reform. It will allow young Australians with early psychosis in every state and territory to access expert 21st century care for the first time.”

“Young people and their families will now be able to access specialist care for early psychosis in optimistic stigma-free environments and in a more holistic evidence informed and comprehensive way,” Mr McGorry said.

“This strategic partnership between EPPIC and *headspace* represents a significant stage in building a national system of youth mental health care and realising the potential of young Australians to flourish and contribute.

“21 years after the birth of EPPIC in Victoria, it is wonderful to see the benefits beginning to flow to young Australians in many other parts of the country.”

Mr Butler said the expansion of *headspace*’s service offering provide a seamless and continued pathway of care for these young people and their families.

“It will provide a single front door for young people, with an integrated service response to deliver services wrapped around people with mental illness,” Mr Butler said.

“This adds to the other successful elements of the \$2.2 billion national mental health reform plan including Partners in Recovery, 90 *headspace* centres, free online professional counseling (MindSpot), the expansion of the Access to Allied Psychological Services program, MindMatters, KidsMatter and many other programs.”

“We are moving forward with *headspace* to ensure delivery of the EPPIC initiative on time because we know there are thousands of young people out there in need of these supports.”

Mr Butler said state and territory governments would be important to the delivery of the EPPIC initiative and he would continue to work with the all jurisdictions on how they can contribute.

“If state and territory governments are able to commit their own resources, this initiative can be scaled up in their jurisdictions,” Mr Butler said.

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