

3 June 2008

Senator Claire Moore,
Chair, Senate Community Affairs Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA
ACT 2600

Dear Senator Moore

**Inquiry into Mental Health Services in Australia:
Submission by SANE Australia: Supplement**

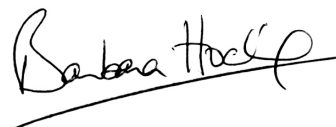
SANE Australia recommends that a new National Mental Health Strategy include explicit reference and commitment of resources to improvement of services for people with a diagnosis of borderline personality disorder (BPD), and their family and other carers.

SANE Australia supports the call for the formation of the high level Taskforce to look at the best way to progress this issue.

BPD is a serious and highly distressing condition which affects 2-5% of the population at some time in their lives. Childhood history of sexual abuse, trauma and neglect is highly prevalent in BPD, many go undiagnosed, and even fewer receive effective treatment.

Services for this group are unplanned, under-funded and provided in an ad hoc manner even where they are available. A coherent, adequately-funded national plan is urgently required to tackle these areas of increasing concern, drawing on the experience of the few existing centres of excellence which do exist, such as the Spectrum service in Victoria. Education and training of the mental health and general health workforce (including GPs and emergency ward staff) in managing the condition is also recommended. Establishment of a Taskforce is an important first step in this process.

Yours sincerely



Barbara Hocking
Executive Director



A national charity
working for a better life
for people affected by mental illness

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SANE Australia is a business name of
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