

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MHCC commends release of ground breaking report on reform of the NSW mental health system

Jenna Bateman, the CEO of the NSW peak body Mental Health Coordinating Council, commends the recent report released by the NSW Mental Health Commission. *Living Well, Putting People at the Centre of Mental Health Reform in NSW*. October 2014.

“We have needed this report from the NSW Mental Health Commission. The report tells it pretty much like it is.”

“We have long needed a plan for mental health in NSW, and this report is a powerful summary of the work that we all need to do. It is a report that talks about the full spectrum of life events that can affect mental health across the lifespan; a report that details the huge disparities and gaps in the current service system, a report that recognises that treatment in hospital is the last resort and that keeping people well in the community is better for all of us - whether a child struggling in school, an adult struggling at work, a parent at their wits end or an older person at home drinking too much and losing hope.”

“Stakeholders in the mental health community have been impressed with the far-reaching consultation that went into this report, and we await release of the Strategic Plan that sits behind this report. Mental Health Commissioner John Feneley has spent an enormous amount of his time since taking up his position in August 2012 getting out and talking to people. And he has not limited himself to the health sector experts but to people who are experts because of their lived experience of mental illness and mental distress”.

“The report provides a realistic appraisal of the good and the bad in current approaches to mental health in NSW. This report is important and it provides a clear indication of what needs to change in our approach to mental health in NSW. However, without a plan that turns those indications into directions it will languish. I urge the government to release the strategic plan and underlying implementation strategy. These documents must be released as soon as possible to demonstrate the government’s commitment to mental health reform.”

“The Mental Health Coordinating Council is keen to progress mental health reform in NSW, supports the approach evident in the Commissions’ report and urges the Baird government to use the findings of the Commission’s report to make a difference in the mental health space in NSW.”

About the Mental Health Coordinating Council of NSW

The Mental Health Coordinating Council (MHCC) is the peak body for community mental health organisations in New South Wales. Our membership is primarily comprised of not-for-profit Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) whose business or activity is wholly or in part, related to the promotion or delivery of services for the wellbeing and recovery of people with mental health conditions and organisations that support carers and families.

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