

MEDIA RELEASE



Health Ministers Meeting takes first steps towards mental health reforms

Tuesday 20 August 2024: Mental Health Coordinating Council is encouraged to see Health and Mental Health Ministers from all Australian governments come together to address the gaps in mental health service and take crucial steps towards mental health reform.

This pivotal meeting has led to several significant outcomes advocated by Mental Health Coordinating Council and the sector, including the report release, *Analysis of unmet need for psychosocial supports outside the National Disability Insurance Scheme*, which estimates almost half a million people with severe and moderate mental health challenges have an unmet need for psychosocial supports. We are pleased to see ministers committed to developing a robust plan for future psychosocial support arrangements and work with the mental health sector.

Governments also committed to meeting twice a year to progress reform priorities with the next meeting to focus on child and youth mental health and consider reform to address unmet needs.

Ministers' recognition for community mental health workforce challenges is welcome, with the undertaking of a national data project to inform how to grow and retain the mental health and suicide prevention workforce. This will be valuable data on community mental health workers which previously has been overlooked in reporting.

Governments also agreed to work together to improve access to mental health services across Australia through a re-affirmed commitment to delivering on the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement.

Chief Executive Officer of Mental Health Coordinating Council, Dr Evelyne Tadros says, "The recent meeting of Health and Mental Health Ministers represents a crucial step forward in addressing Australia and New South Wales' mental health challenges. The commitments to improve psychosocial supports and the acknowledgement for the community mental health workforce reflect the priorities we have long advocated for. We aim to continue building momentum, collaborate with our members and the sector, to ensure these initiatives result

in meaningful improvements for those living with mental health challenges and psychosocial disability.”

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About:

Mental Health Coordinating Council is the peak body for community-managed mental health organisations in NSW and is a Registered Training Organisation (RTO). MHCC provides policy leadership, promotes legislative reform and systemic change, and develops resources and training to assist community mental health organisations to deliver quality and effective services underpinned by best practice principles. Visit www.mhcc.org.au