COAG Mental Health

New Early Intervention Services for Parents, Children and Young People

Why is this important?

- An estimated 16 per cent of children and young people are affected by mental disorders every year but only one in four receives treatment.
- This measure aims to strengthen current Commonwealth-funded prevention and early intervention programmes targeted to children and young people at risk of developing mental disorders, while also building the capacity of parents, schools and non-government providers to understand and respond to mental health issues.
- School personnel and parents will be given access to skills training to support children and identify children at risk of mental illness.
- Parents and schools will be assisted to detect children at risk of mental disorders and offered early referral pathways. The availability of new mental health services and related services will also be promoted.

Who will benefit?

- Up to 3200 primary schools and preschools will be assisted to detect and respond to children at risk of mental disorders through parent education and early intervention programmes through this measure. There will also be support for early intervention for young people with signs of mental illness through the range of new primary care supports available to meet the mental health needs of young people.

What funding is the Government committing to the initiative?

- This measure forms part of the Government’s contribution to the COAG Mental Health package, as announced on 5 April 2006.
- $28.1 million has been allocated over five years, with funding of $11.0 million in 2010-11.

What have we done in the past?

- This measure will complement and expand on the existing early intervention programmes for children and young people, including the MindMatters initiatives and the Youth Mental Health Initiative.

When will the initiative conclude?

- Initial funding will be provided over five years to June 2011.