

Date: 25 July 2008

**Australian Government Department of Families,  
Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs  
Progress Report on COAG Mental Health initiatives**

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**New Personal Helpers and Mentors - \$284.8 million over five years**

- Round 1 service providers have been operational since late May 2007 in 28 sites across Australia, with most Round 1 providers operating at full capacity.
- Round 2 providers have been funded since November 2007 in 48 sites across Australia.
- As at 31 May 2008, in excess of 2,200 participants had been accepted into the program.
- Round 3 applications, which closed on 25 July 2008, will be assessed in the coming month, and it is expected that a further 79 service providers (47 metropolitan and 32 non-metropolitan) will be announced in November 2008. The Broome/West Kimberley site was announced in April 2008, and will be tendered for separately.

**The Mental Health Community Based Program - \$45.2 million over five years**

- Nationally, seven Family Mental Health Support Services (FHMSS) are providing mental health support to families affected by mental illness. Service providers are now fully operational. At least 500 clients have now utilized the services.
- Over 100 Carers Engagement Workshops are being conducted across Australia to assist family members and carers of people with a mental illness to develop coping and management skills.
- To date 32 workshops have been delivered in Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, New South Wales and South Australia reaching a total of 650 participants.
- A total of \$34 million has been provided to deliver 38 projects to support families, carers, children and young people affected by a mental illness.
- 25% of projects have a focus on Indigenous families and those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.
- Projects are being delivered in all states and territories and are now fully operational. The types of funded services include counselling, education, skills development, whole of family support, networking, and the raising of awareness.

**More Respite Places to Help Families and Carers - \$224.7 million over five years**

- Over \$66.6 million has been allocated to 54 Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centres under the brokerage component of the Program from April 2007 to end June 2010, with in excess of 5,500 carers assisted over the last 12 months.
- The outcome of the open competitive funding round for the program was announced on 8 October 2007. \$35 million over 3 years has been made available to establish new and/or expand existing respite services for carers of people with severe mental illness/psychiatric disability and carers of people with intellectual disability.
- Across Australia, 52 organisations in 88 sites covering 43 HaCC regions have received funding to provide a range of flexible respite options.
- An additional \$15.4 million up to 30 June 2010 has been made available to 17 organisations to deliver services in 32 sites in Stage 2 of the funding process.