

Outcome 11

## Mental Health

Improved mental health care for all Australians

### OUTCOME SUMMARY

Outcome 11 aims to enhance the capacity of the mental health system to support people with a mental illness, their families and carers. The outcome is also focused on reducing the prevalence, disability and impacts of mental illness, and reducing the prevalence and impacts of suicide.

The Australian Government will achieve this outcome through the development and implementation of mental health and suicide prevention initiatives.

Outcome 11 is the responsibility of the Mental Health and Workforce Division.

### The Year Ahead

In 2007-08, the Government will continue to implement elements of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) National Action Plan on Mental Health 2006-11. Initiatives will expand and improve the availability of mental health services, to ensure that people with mental illness, their families and carers, are better supported to participate in the community.

The Government will also continue to focus on addressing a range of mental health issues, including child and youth mental health, infrastructure and workforce needs; and work to develop and support the delivery of mental health services.

### Key Strategic Directions for 2007-08

During 2007-08, the Australian Government will:

- improve access to mental health services and reduce the impact of mental illness through the implementation of COAG Mental Health package initiatives and other mental health measures;
- support psychiatrists, general practitioners and allied mental health professionals to improve access to better, more integrated primary mental health care;
- improve the capacity for early identification and referrals to appropriate services;
- support national suicide prevention activities to reduce the incidence of suicide across the population; and
- improve the participation of people with severe mental illness in the community.

## Major Activities

### **Access to Services through the Council of Australian Governments Mental Health Package**

In 2007-08, the Australian Government will continue to work with the states and territories and other stakeholders, to implement initiatives aimed at improving access to mental health services, and reducing the impact of mental illness in the community. These initiatives will address four key strategic directions relating to the Australian Government's contribution to the COAG Mental Health package, as announced by the Prime Minister on 5 April 2006. These strategies are:

- reducing the prevalence and severity of mental illness in Australia;
- reducing the prevalence of risk factors that contribute to the onset of mental illness and prevent longer-term recovery;
- increasing the proportion of people with an emerging or established mental illness who are able to access the right health care and other relevant community services at the right time, with a particular focus on early intervention; and
- increasing the ability of people with a mental illness to participate in the community, employment, education and training, including through an increase in access to stable accommodation.

The Department will monitor and report on major mental health indicators through the publication of the *National Mental Health Report* and COAG annual reporting.

### **Better, More Integrated Primary Mental Health Care**

During 2007-08, the Australian Government will expand the provision of psychology, psychiatry and primary care services through the Medical Benefits Schedule (MBS) and other measures. It will also promote teamwork between doctors and psychologists.

The Government will focus on improving primary mental health care in rural and remote areas through a more flexible approach to service delivery and enhance services for people with mental illness and drug or alcohol issues. Improving capacity to intervene early in the onset of mental illness will be a priority.

The Australian Government will continue to implement the education and training component of the Better Access to Psychiatrists, Psychologists and General Practitioners through the MBS initiative. This will help ensure the primary and specialist mental health workforces work collaboratively in a multidisciplinary team and are well equipped to recognise and treat mental illness.

Furthermore, the Government will continue to support beyondblue to reduce the prevalence and impact of depression, anxiety and related substance abuse disorders.

### **Early Identification and Referrals to Appropriate Services**

In 2007-08, the Australian Government will continue support for students, teachers, parents and carers through the MindMatters and KidsMatter initiatives, to improve mental health literacy within secondary and primary schools.

Implementation of the headspace initiative will improve access and service delivery for young people with mental health and drug and alcohol problems, through the roll-out of up to 30 youth services across Australia. These youth services will bring together primary care, mental health, drug and alcohol and vocational rehabilitation services, to provide holistic care to young people.

In 2007-08, the Australian Government will continue to provide funding for the expansion and enhancement of telephone and web-based counselling services, and self-help resources which provide advice and support for people in emotional or mental health crises.

#### **National Suicide Prevention Activities**

The Government will continue to fund the National Suicide Prevention Scheme in 2007-08, to reduce the incidence of suicide across the Australian population, by supporting national and community based models of suicide prevention activities.

During 2007-08, the Department will manage a broad range of projects under the scheme that take a community capacity building approach to suicide prevention. The focus of these activities will be to improve the public's understanding of suicide prevention; to protect against the risk factors for suicide; and to increase support available to people, families and communities affected by suicide.

#### **Participation of People with Severe Mental Illness in the Community**

In 2007-08, the Australian Government will continue to provide funding for the Support for Day to Day Living in the Community Program which aims to improve the quality of life for individuals with severe and persistent mental illness. The Government will fund additional places in structured activities designed to improve social participation and improve independent living skills. The Department will measure the success of the program by the number of grants provided to increase the number of places available in existing living skills programs.

## Outcome 11 Resourcing

Table 3.1.11 shows how the 2007-08 Budget appropriations translate to total resourcing for Outcome 11, including administered expenses, revenue from government (appropriation), revenue from other sources, and the total price of outputs.

**Table 3.1.11: Total Resources for Outcome 11**

	Estimated actual 2006-07 \$'000	Budget estimate 2007-08 \$'000
<b>Administered appropriations</b>		
<b>Program 11.1: Mental Health</b>		
Appropriation Bill 1	92,667	115,731
<i>Health Care (Appropriation) Act 1998 - Australian Health Care Agreements - Provision of Designated Health Services (p)</i>	11,239	31,206
Total Special Appropriations	11,239	31,206
	<b>103,906</b>	<b>146,937</b>
<b>Total Administered Appropriations</b>	<b>103,906</b>	<b>146,937</b>
<b>Departmental appropriations</b>		
<b>Health and Ageing</b>		
Output Group 1 - Policy Advice	6,571	6,745
Output Group 2 - Program Management	9,816	10,074
<b>Total price from departmental outputs</b> <i>(Total revenue from government and from other sources)</i>	16,387	16,819
Total revenue from government (appropriations) contributing to price of departmental outputs	15,947	16,397
Total revenue from other sources	440	422
<b>Total price from departmental outputs</b> <i>(Total revenue from government and from other sources)</i>	16,387	16,819
<b>Total Price of Outputs for Outcome 11</b> <i>(Total Revenue from Government and from other sources)</i>	16,387	16,819
<b>Total estimated resourcing for Outcome 11</b> <i>(Total price of outputs and administered appropriations)</i>	<b>120,293</b>	<b>163,756</b>
	2006-07	2007-08
<b>Average Staffing Level (number)</b>		
Department	143	148

## Measures Affecting Outcome 11

A summary of measures affecting this outcome is provided at Table 2.2, Section 2. Measure descriptions are published in full in *Budget Paper No. 2, Budget Measures 2007-08*, available on the Australian Government website at: <www.budget.gov.au>.

## Contribution of Administered Programs to Outcome 11

### Program 11.1: Mental Health

The Mental Health program funds a number of key mental health and well-being and suicide prevention initiatives, including beyondblue – the National Depression Initiative; Better Outcomes in Mental Health Care: the National Suicide Prevention Strategy; and the Youth Mental Health Initiative. In addition, the program funds initiatives under the Australian Government’s contribution to the COAG Mental Health package. The contribution to this outcome will be measured through the evaluation plans and/or reviews of individual initiatives. The Government will also evaluate the COAG Mental Health initiatives delivered by this portfolio, as part of the broader COAG monitoring and reporting processes.

### Contribution of Departmental Outputs to Outcome 11

The Department describes its core activities in terms of two output groups: policy advice and program management. Outcome 11 reports on both output groups. Refer to Section 3.1 for more information on output groups.

### Performance Information for Outcome 11

Performance information for administered programs, individual outputs and output groups relating to Outcome 11 are summarised in Table 3.2.11.

**Table 3.2.11: Key Performance Information for Outcome 11**

#### Performance Information for Administered Programs

Indicator	Measured by	Reference Point or Target
<b>Administered Funding – Mental Health Programs</b>		
Better awareness, reduced stigma and improved access to services for people with depression, anxiety and related disorders.	Progress against outcomes identified in <i>Strategic Framework for Action: Opening our Eyes to Depression across Australia 2005-2010</i> .	Expanded scope of beyondblue programs for depression and anxiety through a range of strategies, training, public awareness and research.
Improve access and service delivery for young people with mental health and drug and alcohol problems.	Numbers of headspace: National Youth Mental Health Foundation youth service models established.	A minimum of 30 headspace: National Youth Mental Health Foundation youth service models established across Australia.
Mental health literacy interventions piloted in primary schools.	KidsMatter resources developed and implemented.	KidsMatter resources implemented in at least 100 primary schools.

Budget Statements – Department of Health and Ageing

Indicator	Measured by	Reference Point or Target
<b>Administered Funding – Mental Health Programs</b>		
People accessing information on mental health and crisis counselling.	Number of calls answered by telephone counselling services.  Information available to the community.	Increased number of calls answered by telephone counselling services from 2006.  Increased availability of mental health resources on the internet from 2006.
People accessing clinical psychology services through the Medical Benefits Schedule.	Use of new psychologists Medical Benefits Schedule item.	Increased number of people accessing psychology services through the Medical Benefits Schedule.
Integration of Divisions of General Practice Better Outcomes in Mental Health Care Access to Allied Psychological Services contracts with new arrangements for supporting primary mental health care.	Number of Divisions' work plans reflecting alignment.	70% of Divisions promoting understanding of new primary mental health care programs, and their alignment to Access to Allied Psychological Services.
Participation of people with severe mental illness in living skills programs.	Number of grants provided to increase number of places available in living skills programs.	Establishment of grants program that will provide over 7,000 places over 5 years.
Participation in the Mental Health Postgraduate Scholarship Scheme.	Number of scholarships provided.	75 new full time equivalent scholarships to be provided nationally.
Community capacity to support people at risk of suicide.	Number and evaluation of national and community-based projects funded under National Suicide Prevention Strategy.	70% of community projects evaluated with positive outcomes.
<b>Cost: \$146.937m</b>		

**Performance Information for Departmental Outputs**

Indicator	Measured by	Reference Point or Target
<b>Output Group 1 – Policy Advice</b>		
Quality, relevant and timely advice for Australian Government decision-making.	Ministerial satisfaction.	Maintain or increase from previous year.

Section 3 – Department Outcomes – 11 Mental Health

Indicator	Measured by	Reference Point or Target
<b>Output Group 1 – Policy Advice</b>		
Relevant and timely evidence-based policy research.	Production of relevant and timely evidence-based policy research.	Relevant evidence-based policy research produced in a timely manner.
<b>Price: \$6.745m</b>		

Indicator	Measured by	Reference Point or Target
<b>Output Group 2 – Program Management</b>		
Administered budget predictions are met and actual expenses vary less than 0.5% from budgeted expenses.	Percentage that actual expenses vary from budgeted expenses.	0.5% variance from budgeted expenses.
Stakeholders to participate in program development.	Opportunities for stakeholder participation through a range of avenues, such as surveys, conferences and meetings.	Stakeholders participated in program development. Meetings of the Stakeholder Reference Group.
<b>Price: \$10.074m</b>		

**Evaluations**

The Department does not plan to undertake any evaluations under Outcome 11 in 2007-08.

**Major Reviews**

The Department does not plan to undertake any major reviews under Outcome 11 in 2007-08.