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**From:** Lawrence Muskitta s47F @blackdog.org.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 4:14 PM  
**To:** PAILLAS, Steve s47F @Health.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Joint statement

**REMINDER:** Think before you click! This email originated from outside our organisation. Only click links or open attachments if you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Steve,

Thanks for your time this morning.

Here's the draft copy of the joint statement we are looking to launch on Wednesday, after the roundtable:

[Joint Statement No Health Without Mental Health CLEAN.docx](#)

Keen to get your thoughts on it.

Like I said, the aim of the roundtable and joint statement is to add constructive solutions, not to dwell on the problems we all know exist.

s47F probably communicated this to your office but just want to assure you that we have measures in place to ensure the conversation is constructive, including:

- Pre-briefing all speakers, including additional support for lived experience advocates, before and after the event
- Having an experienced, trauma-informed moderator in ACT Lived Experience Director and former NSW Mental Health Deputy Commissioner Bradley Foxlewin

We can also provide you with a more detailed discussion guide for the roundtable later this week, if that would be helpful.

Hope that all sounds ok. If you have any concerns and questions, you have my number – feel free to call me whenever.

Thanks,

**Lawrence Muskitta** (he/him)  
Head of Government Relations  
Black Dog Institute  
Hospital Road, Randwick NSW 2031

M s47F  
s47F @blackdog.org.au  
[www.blackdoginstitute.org.au](http://www.blackdoginstitute.org.au)



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**BETTER : MENTAL HEALTH**

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AND SUICIDE PREVENTION AND RURAL  
AND REGIONAL HEALTH

## JOINT STATEMENT

**No health without mental health****Include Mental Health Reform in the National Health Reform Agreement**

As representatives of Australia's leading mental health organisations, we come together to call for immediate and coordinated action to address the critical gap in mental health care between Federal and State/Territory services.

This gap currently leaves Australians without adequate mental health support, leading to significant distress in the community and increased cost to the health system.

Federal and State/Territory Governments now have the opportunity to bridge this gap, by agreeing to joint funding arrangements and a roadmap for long-term reform within the upcoming National Health Reform Agreement (NHRA), as recommended by the Productivity Commission and the NHRA Review.

We acknowledge the work started by both Federal and State/Territory Governments towards long-term mental health reform. We urge the Federal and State/Territory governments to continue to prioritise this issue and take decisive, coordinated action to create a mental health system that leaves no one behind.

**Key Asks:**

1. **Long-Term Funding and Reform:** Federal and State/Territory governments must agree on funding arrangements and a long-term roadmap for reform to close the service gap for the 'missing middle' and people with complex mental health needs. Reform is required to provide consistent, integrated, and comprehensive care that bridges the current divide between primary and specialist services. Adequate funding is essential to ensure that community-based services are accessible, well-resourced, and capable of providing the necessary support.
2. **Full-Day Mental Health Ministers Meeting:** This crucial negotiation should take place during the planned full-day Mental Health Ministers Meeting, involving Federal and State/Territory Ministers for Health and Mental Health. Such a dedicated and focused meeting will allow for in-depth discussions and the development of a unified, collective approach to addressing this pressing issue, including discussions on funding, service integration and whole-of-government approaches. The involvement of key stakeholders and experts in these discussions, including centring the voices of people with lived experience and their families, carers and kin, will ensure that the agreed solutions are both person-centred and effective.
3. **Inclusion in National Health Reform Agreement:** Mental health reform should be included in the upcoming NHRA to ensure new mental health services can be sustainably funded across Governments. Embedding these commitments within the NHRA, as recommended by the Productivity Commission and the NHRA Review, will provide a framework for accountability, transparency, and continuous evaluation of progress. It will also facilitate the long-term sustainability of mental health services for the 'missing middle', and provide a foundation for long-term reform and more integrated services.

By addressing these key areas, we can make significant strides in bridging the gap in mental health care and ensuring that all Australians have access to the support they need.

The mental health sector remains committed to working collaboratively with all levels of government to achieve these goals and improve the mental health and wellbeing of all Australians.

-ENDS-

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**From:** s47F [REDACTED]@blackdog.org.au>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 27, 2024 12:04 PM

**To:** McBride, Emma (MP) <Emma.McBride.MP@aph.gov.au>

**Subject:** Webinar Invitation - Preventing Suicide in Australian Emergency Departments: Launch of New National Guidelines

Dear The Hon Emma Mc Bride,

On behalf of the Black Dog Institute, Suicide Prevention Australia and Amber's White Light, we would like to invite you to an exclusive webinar titled 'Preventing Suicide in Australian Emergency Departments: Launch of New National Guidelines.'

More people than ever are presenting to Emergency Departments (EDs) with mental health concerns and in suicidal crisis. For consumers, the ED is not the ideal environment to receive care when experiencing suicidal distress, but they remain a widely used option for people who need support and are unable to remain safe in the community. For clinical staff, it can be particularly difficult providing complex care in tight organisation and legal boundaries and knowing which services the individual can be referred on to for more appropriate treatment.

Our *National Guidelines for Suicide Prevention in Emergency Departments* provide evidence-based recommendations for best practice care of people who present to the ED and other acute settings in suicidal crisis.

This webinar aims to enhance knowledge and implementation of the guidelines across the country, ensuring better care and outcomes for individuals in crisis.

Join us to hear about the new guidelines from leading expert in this field **A/ Professor Fiona Shand**, and from a panel of distinguished experts from across the sector, including:

- **Dr Amanda Cohn MLC** – NSW Greens Spokesperson for Mental Health, former GP, frontline emergency services volunteer and Deputy Mayor of Albury
- **Glenn Cotter** – Lived Experience Peer Worker, Grand Pacific Health
- **Dr James Gaston** – ED Staff Specialist at Campbelltown Hospital

In your role as Federal Mental Health Minister we would really value your attendance. The link to register is here: <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/2fd0c63c-2023-4fc5-89dc-ff7ff72abdf0@3ff6cfa4-e715-48db-b8e1-0867b9f9fba3>

**Event Details:**

- **Date:** 10 July
- **Time:** 10-11am (AEST)
- **Location:** Online Webinar

If you have any questions or would like to receive the updated guidelines in advance, please do not hesitate to contact me at s47F @blackdog.org.au

Kind regards,

s47F

s22

From: Lawrence Muskitta s47F [REDACTED]@blackdog.org.au>  
 Sent: Monday, July 1, 2024 12:09 PM  
 To: PAILLAS, Steve s47F [REDACTED]@Health.gov.au>  
 Subject: Roundtable update

**REMINDER:** Think before you click! This email originated from outside our organisation. Only click links or open attachments if you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Steve,

Hope you had a good weekend!

Just sharing the final agenda with you for the roundtable on Wednesday – there have been a few changes since we last spoke.

We've also sent the updated agenda to the Department team who are coordinating Emma's speech.

When	What	Who
8:00-8:05am	Arrival and networking breakfast	All
8:05-8:10am	Opening remarks	<b>Ms Allegra Spender MP</b> , Member for Wentworth
8:10-8:15am	Opening remarks	<b>Hon Emma McBride MP</b> , Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention
8:15-8:20am	Opening remarks	<b>Elizabeth Young</b> , Mother of Bondi victim and mental health advocate
8:20-8:25am	Opening remarks	<b>Kerry Hawkins</b> , Carer Advocate, National Mental Health Commissioner, President of the Western Australian Association for Mental Health (WAAMH)
8:25-8:55am	Lived Experience panel discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What have been your experiences with the mental health system?</li> <li>What needs to change to improve your experience?</li> <li>What are you hopeful for?</li> </ul>	<b>Moderator: Kerry Hawkins</b> , Carer Advocate, National Mental Health Commissioner, President of the Western Australian Association for Mental Health (WAAMH) <b>Eileen McDonald</b> , Consumer and Carer Advocate, CEO of Bipolar Australia <b>Geoff Radford</b> , CEO of the NT Mental Health Coalition <b>Nayonika Bhattacharya</b> , Consumer Advocate, Youth Advisor for Multicultural Youth Affairs Network (MYAN)

**8:55-  
9:00am****Wrap up and close/ press  
conference****Ms Allegra Spender MP, Member for Wentworth**

We will also be hosting a press conference with Allegra after the roundtable event to launch the [joint statement](#), which has now been endorsed by the following organisations:

- Arafmi Ltd Carers Queensland
- Australian College of Mental Health Nurses
- Australian Society for Psychological Medicine
- BEING – Mental Health Consumers NSW
- Bipolar Australia Limited
- Black Dog Institute
- Mental Health Australia
- Mental Health Carers Australia
- Mental Health Carers NSW
- Mental Health Coordinating Council
- Mental Health Families and Friends Tasmania
- Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP)
- Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) NSW/ACT
- Tandem Carers Victoria
- Wayahead (Mental Health Association NSW)
- Yourtown

We will also share this joint statement with the state/territory Health and Mental Health Ministers.

Give me a call today if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks,

**Lawrence Muskitta** (he/him)  
Head of Government Relations  
Black Dog Institute  
Hospital Road, Randwick NSW 2031

Ms47F  
s47F [@blackdog.org.au](mailto:s47F@blackdog.org.au)  
[www.blackdoginstitute.org.au](http://www.blackdoginstitute.org.au)



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