



## Million Minds Mission Advisory Panel

### COMMUNIQUE

#### Meeting One – 2 October 2018

The Million Minds Mission Advisory Panel co-chaired by Professor Shitij Kapur and Professor Helen Milroy held its inaugural meeting in Canberra on 2 October 2018. The Advisory Panel has been appointed by the Minister for Health, the Hon. Greg Hunt MP, to oversee the Million Minds Mission.

The Advisory Panel confirmed that the Mission will provide \$125 million over ten years from the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) to support research into innovative interventions for mental illness and suicide prevention across the life span. The Advisory Panel will help identify research priorities, inform the design of the Mission's research grant programs, prioritise proposals for funding based on peer-review, and monitor and report on the return on investment in terms of both improved health and economic outcomes.

#### **Principles and priorities for the Mission**

The Advisory Panel considered the guiding investment principles and priorities for the Mission (developed in consultation with key stakeholders earlier in 2018) and the Million Minds Mission Roadmap. The Roadmap is nearing finalisation and will be released shortly.

The Advisory Panel confirmed the process for calls for research for the first tranche of funding (to be delivered in 2018-19) with program guidelines and assessment criteria for these priorities to be made available in late 2018. The application and review process will be administered by the National Health and Medical Research Council. The Advisory Panel will be seeking bold, transformative proposals in the three priorities areas of child and youth mental health, eating disorders and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health. The Million Minds Mission will foster a collaborative and inclusive environment that encourages and supports smaller organisations and early career researchers to engage meaningfully in this important health and medical research initiative.

The Advisory Panel considered priorities for the next tranche of funding under the Mission and processes for disbursement of funding in 2019-20 and 2020-21, and confirmed that this will include opportunities for funding using new and innovative research models. The Advisory Panel will review investment priorities periodically to ensure that they align with successive *Australian Medical Research and Innovation Priorities*, National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plans, and strategic priorities set by the National Mental Health Commission. The Advisory Panel will also keep abreast with emerging clinical needs, and national and international research opportunities.

#### **Governance arrangements**

The Advisory Panel also endorsed a range of governance and operational arrangements including terms of reference, operating arrangements and a communication strategy. The Advisory Panel committed to transparency of process and agreed to hold a strategic priorities planning workshop with engagement and input from the broader research community in early 2019.

#### **Further information**

Further information on the Million Minds Mission, and the Advisory Panel itself is available on the Department of Health's website or by contacting [mental.health.liaison@health.gov.au](mailto:mental.health.liaison@health.gov.au)