

MEDIA RELEASE

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**DISASTER AFFECTED MENTAL HEALTH NOT-FOR-PROFITS
ACKNOWLEDGED AND INCLUDED**

Peak advocacy group, Queensland Alliance for Mental Health (QAMH) welcomes the extension of financial assistance to disaster affected charities and not-for-profit organisations by Premier Anna Bligh yesterday.

QAMH Chief Executive Jeff Cheverton said until yesterday government disaster recovery grants and concessional interest rate loans had excluded charities and not-for-profit organisations.

“This is a very welcomed announcement from the Premier and we express our appreciation at her work in ensuring community agencies devastated by the floods get assistance,” Mr Cheverton said.

“These grants will finally allow mental health groups and organisations struggling from the impact of floods and cyclones, to get back on their feet,” he said.

“Mental Health organisations are the experts of their own community’s needs, and these grants empower them to get back on track and continue on the road to recovery,” he said.

Queensland Alliance for Mental Health asked the Queensland Government to consider extending small business assistance to charities and not-for-profit organisations on 27 January 2011 in the report *Rising to the Challenge*, based on the interviews with community mental health organisations.

“This is a welcomed change to the planning and delivery of disaster recovery services for the Queensland community,” Mr Cheverton said.

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