

MEDIA RELEASE

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LANDMARK COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH INVESTMENT IN FEDERAL BUDGET WELCOMED

Queensland Alliance for Mental Health has hailed tonight's federal budget, a ground-breaking investment in community mental health for all Australians. The community mental health investment announced delivers additional services and will reform the mental health system.

Jeff Cheverton, CEO of Queensland Alliance for Mental Health said this is a landmark investment, not just because the quantum of funding is unprecedented, but also because the types of services funded will help transform the system.

"People with an experience of mental illness and their loved ones have long been calling out for support in their own homes and communities rather than in hospitals," Mr Cheverton said

"This budget will invest in new community case managers, enhance access to community-based psychological services, and deliver personal mentors to assist people's recovery from mental illness," he said.

"For too long people with mental health needs received little assistance until they hit a crisis, and even then they often missed out on assistance. This budget will deliver more early intervention services, increased youth mental health assistance and innovative support delivered through the internet," he said.

"The proposed Mental Health Commission will have a significant role as watchdog of the mental health system. Never before has Australia had a body like this, located in the Prime Minister's own Department, to ensure the system improves."

“As a result of this investment Australians will be better able to get the help they need earlier and closer to home,” Mr Cheverton said.

ENDS

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