

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW PLAN A SET OF ASPIRATIONS

Today's launch of the State Government's Mental Health Community Services Plan has been welcomed by the state's mental health peak body, Queensland Alliance for Mental Health, but not without reservation.

"This is a human rights issue and that's a point our sector has long understood," said Acting CEO, Richard Nelson.

"Our sector cares daily for many of the most marginalised people in the community and this plan clearly acknowledges what we in the sector have always known... a community approach to mental health must form a central pillar of mental health care."

"We are encouraged by the government's commitment to community mental health services and are excited by the prospect of a genuinely decentralised model of caring for people in their own homes and communities."

"It is important to note however the plan is, in many respects, a set of aspirations."

"The first two years are covered in detail and funded predominately through existing programs centred on disaster recovery."

"After those first two years however, the document outlines a set of ideas that are essentially unfunded, uncosted and it's unclear how it will be implemented."

"If a community approach is to ever work, there must be adequate funds and a clear and widely consulted implementation strategy. Throwing ideas and documents into the sector won't deliver better, more coordinated care. Careful planning and sufficient resources enable NGOs to confidently carry out their work."

"Given the document's inherent link to the recently announced Mental Health Commission, there is still a degree of uncertainty about whether a balance will be struck between clinical and community service provision. If we are to get it right when it comes to community recovery we need to ensure widespread consultation, collaboration and adequate resources."

ENDS

Please find **Supporting Recovery Mental Health Community Services Plan 2011-2017** [here](#)

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