

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**14 June 2011**

### **MENTAL HEALTH INVESTMENT IN STATE BUDGET WELCOMED**

Queensland Alliance for Mental Health, peak body for the community mental health sector, has welcomed the budget announcement for an additional \$49 million over the next two years for mental health in today's State Budget. \$11.2M of this funding is allocated to community organisations and the remainder is allocated to Queensland Health.

Jeff Cheverton, Chief Executive of Queensland Alliance for Mental Health said this is a solid investment, which is timely for the needs of so many Queenslanders after a summer of disasters.

“We welcome this investment as an appropriate response to the needs of people in areas affected by natural disaster last summer,” Mr Cheverton said.

“We support investing in public sector mental health services, however we believe a greater balance of this investment should be with community, non-government organisations. Most people affected by natural disasters will turn to community organisations for support and assistance in the coming months.”

“Once funds to community organisations are on the ground and our members are reporting the real needs of communities at the grassroots, we will be reporting these needs back to Government,” Mr Cheverton said.

The Government has also announced \$0.6M over three years for activities to complement the \$8.5M mental health Anti-Stigma campaign announced in last year's budget. Queensland Health is responsible for implementing this campaign and in the past year has undertaken initial research.

“TV advertising campaigns on their own will not change people’s behaviour. We welcome this investment in grassroots activities. These funds will enable us to work with our members and support creative ways to get communities talking about negative attitudes and behaviours towards mental illness,” Mr Cheverton said.

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To arrange an interview or photo opportunity please call:

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