



MEDIA RELEASE
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SUPPORT FOR \$2.2B PACKAGE FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Community Mental Health Australia (CMHA) welcomes the Gillard Government announcement to invest \$2.2b in a range of mental health programs over the next five years.

‘The package appears to be well-balanced and targeted toward a more effective mental health system that provides support to people with mental illness where they live in the community,’ said Geoff Harris, spokesperson for Community Mental Health Australia.

‘The package includes a \$154m investment in the Personal Helpers and Mentors Program (PHAMS). PHAMS is an evidence-based program that helps people with severe and persistent mental health problems to build better lives and it also reduces their need for emergency and acute care services.’

‘Also welcome is the announcement of \$344m investment to deliver intensive services to people with severe and persistent mental health issues. This is a new program and we look forward to working closely with Mental Health Minister Mark Butler and the Government in the development of the detail.’

‘The announcement of a Mental Health Commission tasked with developing a 10 year roadmap indicates a commitment from the Gillard Government to keeping a focus on mental health reform into the future. CMHA looks forward to the first annual report card in 2012.’

The mental health package also indicates a clear intention to work with the States and Territories through the COAG framework to improve services for people with mental illness in the Australian community.

Further information: Michelle Swallow 0407 600 811

FACT SHEET FOLLOWS:



Facts about Community Mental Health Australia

- *Community Mental Health Australia is a collaboration of the peak bodies for mental health in each state and territory.*
- *Community Mental Health Australia represents over 800 organisations across Australia. The organisations that comprise Community Mental Health Australia are:*



Mental Health Coalition South Australia



Mental Health Community Coalition ACT



Mental Health Coordinating Council



Mental Health Council of Tasmania



Northern Territory for Mental Health



Queensland Alliance for Mental Health



**Psychiatric Disability Services
of Victoria (VICSERV)**

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WAAMH
**Western Australian Association
for Mental Health**

WA Association for Mental Health