



Media Release

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Mental Health Council and Flourish Responds to State Budget Mental Health Announcements

The Mental Health Council of Tasmania (MHCT) in conjunction with Flourish Mental Health Action in Our Hands Inc. is pleased with the State Budget measures for mental health announced yesterday. The specific new announcements that will directly affect Tasmanians experiencing mental health issues are encouraging and can be seen as a move in the right direction to improving outcomes across the mental health sector.

One key announcement is the additional 2.4 million over four years boost to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) across the state. This is a welcome increase to an under-funded area of service that will be part of an overall strategy to provide effective early intervention and support to children and young Tasmanians who are at risk.

Miranda Ashby, Executive Officer for Flourish, the key Tasmanian mental health consumer organisation, sees this as a positive step to provide young Tasmanian's with a standard of care that can only improve from here on in.

"This increase funding for CAMHS is the beginning of what could be an effort to create intergenerational change for Tasmanian families. With continued adequate resourcing across all areas of Mental Health we will see far better outcomes now and into the future", said Ms Ashby.

Of significance to people with mental health issues is the increase to resources for the Mental Health Tribunal. The implementation of the new Mental Health Act in 2013 has seen an increase in workload and operational costs for the Tribunal and an increase of \$500,000 per annum will help to ensure that the Tribunal is run effectively and remains the independent decision maker regarding detention and treatment.

MHCT CEO, Connie Digolis, sees the additional support to the Mental Health Tribunal as part of the overall commitment from the Government to ensure quality control and efficacy for the whole of the mental health sector.

"I have to congratulate the Government on taking on new measures to ensure that mental health for Tasmanian's is a priority. The recurrent funding for Suicide Prevention and the commitment to developing a ten year plan through the Rethink Mental Health project has the potential to lead to a future where we have a health system that is looking after the needs of Tasmanians at all stages of their lives," said Ms Digolis

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