



16 October 2018

Mental Health Council of Tasmania responds to the Government's 'Hospital in the Home' announcement

The Mental Council of Tasmania [MHCT] has reviewed with interest the Government's mental health announcement about the 'Hospital in the Home'(HITH) initiative.

MHCT believes this new option, which we understand will be available to Tasmanians in the south of the state from early 2019, will provide much needed sub-acute supports effectively for our communities. It is delivery model that means people receiving support can remain in their community, with their friends and family and in their own home. Evidence shows us that the outcomes are better when individuals are able to remain in their own environment to receive care. It also means health teams can have a clearer picture of how best to support the individual and their families when working alongside the person in their own home, whilst delivering the highest quality care, in partnership with loved ones.

MHCT CEO, Connie Digolis, welcomes this announcement, stating, *"the timeline for this new community-based and person-centred mental health program is good news for our communities. We understand that Hospital in the Home will be available on referral from early 2019. It will provide critical mental health in home support for individuals and their families, along with other facilities coming online over the next three years to support the mental health of all Tasmanians.*

"The HITH option aligns very well with what the Mental Health Council of Tasmania and our members have been calling for – community-based, co-delivered supports, so we can keep people well and provide care for them in their homes, and more effectively and earlier on in their health journey. We want to see more models that are person-centred and support recovery. We look forward to receiving more details about how Hospital in the Home model will be delivered, how it will be monitored and assessed, how the community-managed mental health service can contribute, and what capacity there may be to take this model state-wide. Given the prevalence of mental ill health in our communities, and the pressures on our acute and non-acute services, this is a good step in the right direction," said Ms Digolis.

*ENDS

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Lifeline: 13 11 14 www.lifeline.org.au

Suicide Call Back Service: 1300 659 467 www.suicidecallbackservice.org.au

beyondblue: 1300 22 4636 www.beyondblue.org.au

For support and guidelines on reporting or portrayal of suicide or mental illness, visit [Mindframe](#)