



## FEDERAL BUDGET 2017-18

### Leadership from Government welcome but now time for real action

Liz Crowther, President, Community Mental Health Australia welcomed the announcement from the Government to provide \$80 million for psychosocial rehabilitation services and urged the states, territories and Federal Government to work together to achieve real action.

‘CMHA welcomes the leadership shown by the Government to provide funding for psychosocial rehabilitation services in the community for people who are not eligible for the NDIS. The sector has been calling for the Government to take responsibility for these people and we are pleased to see them taking action’.

‘The transferring of a number of federally funded mental health programs to the NDIS has created a significant gap with many people now receiving services from this funding, not being eligible for the NDIS. At the same time we have seen states and territories remove funding from community-based mental health services’, Ms Crowther said.

‘The announcement by the Government marks a positive shift in addressing this gap, and is contingent on states and territories matching the contribution from the Federal Government. If states and territories do not make a contribution, then consumers in these jurisdictions are likely to miss out on additional funding’.

‘We urge the states, territories and Federal Government to work together to urgently reach agreement on this funding and address the gaps in services created for people not eligible for the NDIS, as people are missing out on support and services now’.

‘While we welcome the leadership from the Government on mental health funding, we are concerned with some of the punitive welfare measures that are proposed around increased activity requirements and a proposed trial to drug test welfare recipients’ Ms Crowther said.

‘We know people with mental illness are likely to be impacted by these proposals and are over represented in these groups. These are also the people our members work with on a daily basis. We should be applying a thoughtful approach to helping people with mental health and drug alcohol issues to recover and be a part of their community, which measures that punish them will not achieve’.

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