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CMHA 2018-19 Federal Pre-Budget Submission calls for investment in oversight, coordination and independence

Community Mental Health Australia (CMHA) President Liz Crowther called on the 2018-19 Federal Budget to include investment in processes which maintain oversight, coordination and independence of the NDIS and mental health reforms to ensure people living with a mental health condition receive services and have access to processes which are appropriate.

“It is CMHA’s position that people living with a mental health condition or psychosocial disability must be able to access and receive appropriate, high quality and coordinated support regardless of where that support is provided – that is whether for they are eligible for the NDIS or not”.

“The recommendations that have come out of inquiries examining the implementation, costs and pricing of the NDIS including the Productivity Commission NDIS Costs inquiry and the Australian Parliament Joint Standing Committee on the NDIS inquiry on services for people with psychosocial disability, must be a part of the initiatives funded in the 2018-19 Federal Budget to continue addressing and progressing the implementation of the NDIS”, Ms Crowther said.

“There are also a range of other reforms and actions by Government impacting mental health including funding for the PHNs, funding for psychosocial services for people who won’t be eligible for the NDIS through the 2017-18 Federal Budget, and initiatives through the Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan”.

“CMHA’s Federal Pre-Budget Submission for 2018-19 highlights recommendations made in the inquiries, along with issues CMHA has identified in various submissions. These include:

- establishing a national over-arching and coordinated policy reform process to provide national direction and leadership on the overall picture of policy reform impacting mental health;
- implementing the Productivity Commission recommendation to establish an independent price regulation body for the NDIS;
- developing an alternative gateway for people with psychosocial disability to access the NDIS; and
- undertaking a review of the NDIS Act.

Each of these initiatives would identify, address and progress the NDIS and other reforms for the benefit of people with psychosocial disability”, Ms Crowther said.

“It is vital that the Government work with the community managed mental health sector, consumers and carers to ensure that we can achieve the potential of reforms and implement policy that is appropriate for and benefits the people who need it most”.

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