



Media Release

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Mental Health Council Responds to Federal Budget and Welcomes new CEO

The Mental Health Council of Tasmania is concerned around the limited measures announced specifically for mental health in Tuesday's Federal budget. There are, however, some outcomes that aim to drive reform for mental health across Australia as part of the national review.

One key announcement is National Mental Health Commission has received renewed funding for three years. The Health Minister's delayed release of the National Mental Health Commission report: *National Review of Mental of Mental Health Programmes* has meant the Government's response to the report is not in this year's budget. However, Minister Ley has announced an expert reference group to advise the Government on how to implement the report's recommendations.

Newly appointed MHCT CEO, Connie Digolis, steps into the role with a determination to highlight the key issues facing people living with mental illness and the people that support them,

"It is encouraging, for the mental health sector, that there is an announcement in this budget that the Government plans to develop a new national mental health plan in collaboration with all states and territories with the goal to establish a more integrated approach to mental health. However, it also needs to take into consideration the Commission's report and ensure a person-centred approach to care for those with mental illness and we need to act quickly before more people fall through the cracks," said Ms Digolis.

"My plan for the Mental Health Council of Tasmania is to work closely with our members and stakeholders to harness the opportunity we currently have in this state to improve the outcomes for those living with mental illness in Tasmania and their families."

"We want to see a Tasmania that is forward thinking and innovative in the mental health sector. I look forward to a time when we all look after our mental health, not just when a person becomes unwell, but at all times during their lives as part of their overall wellbeing."

Ms Digolis was the former Executive Officer from the Stroke Foundation in Tasmania and brings a wealth of experience in community sector management, advocacy and training.

Available for Interview:

Connie Digolis, CEO MHCT

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