



Media Release

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Mental Health Council Address Federal Funding to Mental Health Announcement

The Mental Council of Tasmania would like to respond directly to the announcement by the Hon. Sussan Ley, Minister for Health in Canberra today regarding the direct changes to the funding structures for mental health services nationally.

MHCT intends to work with Primary Health Tasmania who will be given a level of responsibility in commissioning community based mental health services rather than a contracts based system due to expire for many services in June 2016.

The Minister has expressed that the aim of the re-structure is to ensure that services are more integrated and efficiently managed between acute care and community services.

MHCT CEO Connie Digolis said, "For Tasmania, we can see the value of more streamlined models of funding and service delivery if it means that the outcomes for those living with mental illness are improved. We want to see a better standard of care across the board and this needs to be done in such a way that is consultative and inclusive of all major stakeholders."

"We welcome Primary Health Tasmania's suggestion that they will ensure that key stakeholders including consumers of mental health services and the service providers themselves will be assisting and providing guidance on the process, however, there is a risk that this process could cause a disruption to the care of people currently in existing services."

"What we don't want to see is services that are working well in the community diminished in any way so that there is a reduced capacity in Tasmania to improve our current mental health system. We already have a ten year plan at a State level on where we want to see the sector evolve and this should be in collaboration and reflect the aims of that plan," said Ms Digolis.

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