



14 June 2018

Mental Health Council of Tasmania responds to State Budget announcement

The Mental Council of Tasmania [MHCT] has now reviewed the Tasmanian Government's State Budget, handed down today in Hobart.

MHCT welcomes the continuing investment from the Liberal Government to honour their series of mental health promises as first outlined prior to the March state election. MHCT also acknowledges that the government's direction focuses on community-based, co-delivery options which will support our communities to keep moving toward a mentally healthy Tasmania.

MHCT CEO, Connie Digolis, acknowledged the ongoing commitment, whilst pointing out the need for clear timelines and clarity around ensuring that the appropriate supports reach all Tasmanians.

"MHCT is pleased that the government is working to honour their pre-election promises, particularly regarding their commitment to establishing step-up and step-down services, which have been sadly lacking in our state. Additionally, we welcome the government's commitment to the trial of NSW's Housing and Accommodation Support Initiative (HASI) as a fantastic step towards adopting an effective, evidence based approach to co-delivering housing and mental health. The HASI model has been shown to be effective at reducing hospital readmission rates and positively contributing towards effective long-term recovery.

The focus of our members and our sector is to continue to move toward an integrated mental health system, which provides for the needs of all Tasmanians. In light of this, whilst MHCT welcomes the government's ongoing commitment to the mental health needs of Tasmanians, we will continue to advocate for systems that enable greater visibility and understanding of the services and supports which provide the strongest mental health outcomes for individuals, families and communities. After all, this outcome is what Tasmanians deserve - for all of us." said Ms Digolis.

*ENDS

Available for interview: **Connie Digolis, CEO, MHCT**

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