

12 November 2020

Media Release

**Mental Health Council welcomes Government's ongoing
commitment to reform agenda**

The Mental Health Council of Tasmania (MHCT) welcomes the Tasmanian Government's ongoing commitment to reforming the state's mental health system, as demonstrated through the funding announced today in the 2020-21 State Budget.

Today's announcement includes a \$4.1 million investment to drive the integration of Tasmania's mental health system, something that MHCT has long been advocating for.

MHCT CEO, Connie Digolis, said, "This Budget is a clear acknowledgement by the Tasmanian Government of the need create an integrated system that supports the mental health and wellbeing of all Tasmanians. This is especially important as we continue to deal with a range of challenges resulting from the impacts of the pandemic."

Today's Budget announcement also shows that the Government values and recognises the pivotal role that the community managed mental health sector plays in our system.

Funding announced today follows on from the Government announcement earlier this week to significantly invest in and reform Tasmania's Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), which was recommended as part of a comprehensive review of the mental health system.

While MHCT acknowledges the Government's commitment to mental health sector reform and integration, Ms Digolis said it is important not to lose sight of the need to invest in services and programs that support Tasmanian's to maintain their mental health and wellbeing, to prevent them becoming increasingly unwell.

"We must ensure there are programs available in the community that focus on prevention and early intervention and provide support to people when they need it. To that end, mental health providers across the state – public, primary, private and community – must work together to ensure Tasmanians are supported seamlessly throughout their recovery journey, providing better outcomes for all Tasmanians."

MHCT recognises that the disruptions we have seen this year means this is an interim budget. MHCT will continue to focus on unifying the mental health system, and will continue to monitor Government efforts and funding towards mental health system integration in Tasmania as part of next year's State Budget.

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Media Enquiries: Nick Sullivan

Phone: 0405 672 004

Email: nsullivan@mhct.org

Available for interview: Connie Digolis, MHCT CEO

Please include the following crisis support services for any story regarding mental health or suicide:

Lifeline: 13 11 14 www.lifeline.org.au

Suicide Call Back Service: 1300 659 467 www.suicidecallbackservice.org.au

beyondblue: 1300 22 4636 www.beyondblue.org.au

More information on safely reporting on mental illness or suicide can be found at:

<https://mindframe.org.au/> and <https://www.tascharter.org/>