

Mental Health & Drugs Update

Budget 2009–10



15 May 2009



The Hon Lisa Neville MP

Dear Friends and Colleagues

I am very pleased to advise you of the outcomes of the 2009-10 State Budget which allocates a total of **\$182.1 million dollars** for new investment in mental health reform.

This significant investment – combined with the \$128 million delivered in last year's budget – forms the foundation of investment in the Brumby Government's 10 year reform vision outlined in *Because Mental Health Matters*. Highlights include:

Early in life: improving mental health outcomes for children, young people and their families – \$21.3 million over four years

- The *youth mental health redesign* initiative (\$13.8 million over four years) will boost early intervention and outreach services.
- A new *youth justice mental health initiative* (\$3 million over four years) will provide clinical treatment and care coordination support to young people involved with youth justice services.
- New *CAMHS in Schools Early Action* teams (\$4.5 million over four years) will be established in one metropolitan and one rural region.

Pathways to care: enhanced mental health triage – \$11.2 million over four years

- Expand and centralise the 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week specialist mental health triage response at a total of six metropolitan and regional area mental health services over the next two years.

Strengthening specialist support to people with high needs – \$21.3 million over four years

- Ten new *mental health forensic positions* are created (\$6.4 million over four years).
- New *intensive integrated clinical and psychosocial rehabilitation* support packages (\$14.9 million over four years) targeted to people who are on the waiting list for a Secure Extended Care Unit admission.

Building the foundations for recovery and participation for people with a mental illness – \$37.7 million over four years

- The *care coordination* initiative (\$8.3 million over four years) establishes care coordinators to support clients with multiple needs to access the range of health, community and social services they require.
- Up to 50 *new intensive packages of flexible, scaled psychosocial rehabilitation support* (\$15.6 million over four years) linked to a range of housing options.
- A new *mental health list* (\$13.8 million over four years) in the Melbourne Magistrates' Court will be piloted to provide capacity to address the underlying causes of offending for people with a mental illness.

Improving mental health outcomes for Aboriginal people – \$874,000 over four years

- A new *metropolitan wide mental health service for Aboriginal people*.

Strengthening the mental health workforce – \$6.6 million over four years

- A *mental health workforce development and innovation institute* (\$2.4 million over four years) will be established to support specialist mental health services to address workforce shortages and service quality issues.
- New time-limited positions (\$4.2 million over four years) will be created to lead local service planning and coordination.

Additional boosts to service capacity – \$9.2 million over four years

- Includes operationalising acute inpatient beds at Maroondah Hospital

Added investment in beds – \$74 million in new capital

- Capital funding of \$8 million for two new *Youth Prevention and Recovery Care* services at Bendigo and Frankston
- \$66 million will be invested in a mental health inpatient redevelopment at Dandenong Hospital.
- A further eight mental health beds will be built as part of the \$30 million project to enhance capacity at Geelong Hospital.

New Community Sector Funding Agreement

The Government provides funding for 1,024 community sector organisations to deliver services in disability, housing assistance, alcohol and drugs, family support, palliative care and more.

The three year funding agreement was due for review this year and included extensive consultation between the Department and peak bodies.

A new price index agreement has now been finalised to provide certainty to the sector over the next three years. This amounts to 3.14% for 2009/10 to 20011/12 with a capacity building grant of \$2 million per year.

This has been welcomed by the community sector and will ensure that our most vulnerable Victorians continue to receive the support that they need during these difficult financial times.

Appointment of Victoria's new Chief Psychiatrist and Chief Child Psychiatrist

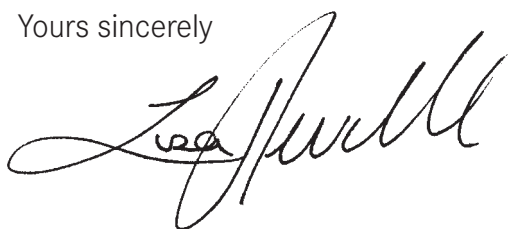
I am delighted to announce the appointment of Dr Ruth Vine as Victoria's Chief Psychiatrist and Dr Sandra Radovini as Victoria's first Chief Child Psychiatrist for children and young people, which is the first position of its kind in Australia.

Dr Vine will take up her appointment on 18 May, marking a return to the Department of Human Services where she was formerly the Director of Mental Health. Most recently, Dr Vine has been working as a consulting psychiatrist in community health and in an advisory role with the Australian Government.

Dr Radovini commenced her appointment last month and is already working with many of you to provide clinical guidance on working with children and young people. Dr Radovini has more than 20 years experience working in both the public and private sectors and since 2007 has worked as Director of Advanced Training in Child & Adolescent Psychiatry and Director of *Mindful*, Victoria's state wide training unit for clinicians working with children and adolescents.

I'd like to welcome both Dr Vine and Dr Radovini to their new positions.

Yours sincerely



Hon Lisa Neville MP
Minister for Mental Health