

# ASSISTING LONG STAY MENTAL HEALTH PATIENTS TO TRANSITION TO THE COMMUNITY



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Evidence shows that people with severe and persistent mental illness can experience better quality of life and improved health and social outcomes by living in the community.

## **Funding for Mental Health Reform in 2017/18**

Under the NSW Government's response to *Living Well: A Strategic Plan for Mental Health in NSW 2014-2024* funding is supporting the Pathways to Community Living Initiative.

In 2017/18, \$1.6 million will fund new clinical services to enable people living with severe and persistent mental illness to transition to community living. Small teams of highly trained and experienced mental health clinicians across NSW including senior practitioners such as psychiatrists, senior nurses, occupational therapists, social workers, psychologists and others will be located in nine local health districts: Central Coast, Hunter New England, Illawarra Shoalhaven, Northern Sydney, Sydney, South Eastern Sydney, South Western Sydney, Western NSW and Western Sydney Local Health Districts.

The teams will work in a new paradigm of care across both inpatient and community settings. They will provide innovative, flexible services that treat a person's needs and make their wishes a priority.

