

# Expanding psychosocial community living supports



**Everyone has the right to live in the community. The type of support that people with severe mental illness may need to live in the community includes psychosocial support related to self care, counselling and advocacy, vocational services, community participation activities, and safe and stable accommodation.**

Many of these supports are provided by non-government organisations and complement the specialist mental health clinical care provided through local mental health services.

**The number of adults receiving community living supports will be increased to around 1850 to assist people with severe mental illness to continue to live in the community.** The program will provide more flexibility by focusing on individuals and their changing needs over time, rather than standalone support packages.

Some people also require help with safe, stable accommodation. A combination of secure housing and appropriate support leads to improved quality of life such as social participation and family relationships, better employment and education, reduced avoidable hospitalisations and reduced lengths of stay. Re-offending and behavioural problems, such as drug or alcohol use and problem gambling, may also reduce.

Government agencies, including NSW Health, Department of Family and Community Services, and the Department of Justice will work collaboratively to better manage severe mental illness in social housing and remove barriers for community-based offenders.

**Community living supports will be expanded for young people with serious mental illness.** This involves building on the highly successful Young

People's Outreach Program with an additional four sites added that provide practical assistance in developing living skills, accessing education and training, improving relationships with family and friends and linking to other services, including income support and recreation activities. Community living supports for young people help reduce the amount of time they spend in hospital and reduce their risk of developing more significant functional disability.

**The LikeMind integrated community mental health service hubs will be expanded to four trial sites.**

LikeMind is a pilot of a new model of community-based integrated co-located health services, including mental health care, which is currently being established in two sites. LikeMind is expected to enhance the delivery of mental health services in the non-government sector. It will also establish linkages across services and sectors to develop an integrated service 'hub' of co-located mental health care, drug and alcohol services, primary care, and social services, including vocational and employment support.

**Supports for mothers with mental illness and their children will be maintained.** This will provide short term non-acute accommodation with mental health and parenting care, as well as specialist care provided in a person's home where they already have one. When mothers are very unwell, they are also supported to access specialist inpatient care.