

Investing in workforce



Health

A skilled and sustainable workforce is at the heart of the Government's long-term plan to strengthen mental health care in NSW.

The mental health workforce includes private and public specialist clinicians, general and other medical practitioners, social workers, community support and recovery workers, Aboriginal mental health workers, and consumer and carer workers. It also includes people in justice, law enforcement, housing, ageing and disability, community services and education who work with people with mental illness.

There is a need to focus on innovation, such as development of new and expanded roles, and support and development for the existing workforce.

The development of a Mental Health Workforce Plan will support collaborative approaches to building capacity in the general health workforce, frontline agencies, and community-managed mental health sector. The Government will also look to leverage national efforts to build the capacity of the community-managed sector in readiness for the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

A more skilled workforce will:

- Improve responsiveness of non-mental health services (ie help people in a mental health crisis)
- Improve the responsiveness of mental health services
- Build a people-centred culture focused on recovery.

Consultation on development of a draft workforce plan will commence in 2015, with a final plan due for completion by June 2016.

A range of training options will initially be provided including suicide prevention training for non-mental health workers, 116 scholarships to undertake Certificate IV in Mental Health or Mental Health Peer Work, and access to Mental Health First Aid courses for community-based workers including youth workers.

Peer workers will be encouraged and supported through a non-government organisation established peer workforce coordinator and network.