



The Hon. Pru Goward MP

Minister for Mental Health
Minister for Medical Research
Assistant Minister for Health
Minister for Women

Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

MEDIA RELEASE

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JOINING FORCES TO ENHANCE SCHIZOPHRENIA RESEARCH

Minister for Medical Research, Pru Goward today announced \$2.5 million over four years to support the development of new treatments and possible cures for schizophrenia through the amalgamation of two national research institutes.

“The NSW Government has committed \$2.5 million to support the amalgamation of Schizophrenia Research Institute (SRI) into Neuroscience Research Australia (NeuRA),” Ms Goward said.

“The best outcomes for the treatment of schizophrenia will be achieved through the opportunity of these institutes to join forces and share their resources, expertise and knowledge.

“Schizophrenia is a devastating mental illness that ranks among the top 10 causes of disability in developed countries worldwide. With symptoms including profound withdrawal from family and friends, a decrease in intellectual abilities, hallucinations and delusions, sufferers’ lives are significantly impacted – in some cases forever.”

Professor Peter Schofield, NeuRA’s CEO said the new opportunities to tackle schizophrenia will be significant.

“The government’s support will also strengthen collaboration with researchers at the University of New South Wales,” Professor Peter Schofield said.

The funding allows researchers to fast track the early stages of discovery in the laboratory, to widespread translational and clinical research and clinical trials.

These assets will now be integrated into NeuRA’s operations, creating a centre of excellence in medical research.

“NeuRA is world-renowned for its schizophrenia research so consolidation will greatly enhance SRI’s research and give increased impetus to efforts to find better ways to treat and cure schizophrenia,” said SRI’s Chairman Norbert Schweizer.

“This is a timely opportunity to extend our capability and reputation as a world leader. We will build upon the talents and intellectual knowledge of a combined group of researchers,” said Professor Vaughan Carr, CEO, Schizophrenia Research Institute.