



The Hon Kevin Humphries MP
Minister for Mental Health
Minister for Healthy Lifestyles
Minister for Western NSW

Thursday 15 March 2012

**NSW GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE RELEASE OF THE
REPORT INTO THE EVALUATION OF EFFICACY AND COST OF THE
MENTAL HEALTH INQUIRY SYSTEM, NSW**

The NSW Government welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Evaluation of Efficacy and Cost of the Mental Health Inquiry System, NSW, conducted by Communio.

The NSW Government today released the report and endorsed its recommendations.

The NSW Government is currently in the process of establishing the Mental Health Commission, following the passage of the Mental Health Commission Bill 2011 through Parliament. The Government has publically set three initial reform priorities for the Commission, including better managing the experience of people with a mental illness, their families and carers; and ensuring the smooth operation of the Mental Health Review Tribunal.

In line with the report's recommendations, the NSW Government will be committing almost \$400,000 extra per annum to improve the Tribunal's capacity to conduct Inquiries in a timely manner, highlighting our commitment to improving the experience of mental health consumers and ensuring their rights are protected.

The NSW Government will move to explore how the right to appeal is extended not only to those who are detained, but to those who are refused access to ensure that mental health services remain open and accessible to consumers.

Furthermore, this year the NSW Government will be conducting a review into the Mental Health Act, which will consider the recommendations outlined by the report.

The NSW Government will continue to put improving mental health care front and centre, demonstrating our commitment to serious and meaningful reform, and to improving the lives of people touched by mental illness.

The Final Report Evaluation of Efficacy and Cost of the Mental Health Inquiry System can be viewed [here](#).