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BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS NSW GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO MENTAL HEALTH

The NSW Government 2012-13 Budget is delivering an unprecedented investment in mental health to improve services and outcomes for the people of NSW, Minister for Mental Health Kevin Humphries announced today.

Mr Humphries said the NSW Government will spend **\$1.4 billion on mental health services and initiatives** in the Budget.

"Despite very difficult Budget conditions, the NSW Government has delivered a record investment on mental health for the second Budget in a row, highlighting our commitment to improving the lives of those who have been touched by mental illness," Mr Humphries said.

"This funding will improve and expand services and deliver better outcomes for patients, their families and carers across NSW."

Mr Humphries said that in the 2012-13 Budget the NSW Government was continuing to deliver on its key election commitment to mental health reform through the establishment of the NSW Mental Health Commission, with **\$30 million over three years**, including **\$8.3 million** in the Budget this year.

"The Commission is one of the most important mental health reforms in the State's history and this funding represents another important milestone we have met in ensuring its successful establishment and operation," Mr Humphries said.

"The Commission - which will commence operations on 1 July 2012 - will be a champion for mental health, ensure better accountability of mental health services, and nurture innovation in the approach we take to mental health."

Major funding initiatives for the 2012-13 Budget include:

- **\$25.7 million** to complete the construction of the Hornsby Hospital Adult Acute Mental Health Unit and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Unit;
- **\$15 million** to continue the construction of the new Child and Adolescent Mental Health Unit at Sydney Children's Hospital;
- **\$5.9 million** for the continued staged opening of the Orange Mental Health Service;
- **\$3.9 million** for new services at the Mental Health Intensive Care Unit at Prince of Wales Hospital to ensure acutely ill mental health patients receive appropriate care;
- **\$2.8 million** for the initial staged opening of the Nepean Mental Health Service Redevelopment; and
- **\$2.7 million** for extra patient services at the Chisholm Ross Centre, Goulburn.



Budget 2012-13

Building for the Future

Through the 2012-13 Budget the NSW Government has also allocated **\$9.6 million** to progressively open new sub-acute mental health services in south western Sydney and at Dubbo Hospital.

There is also another **\$1.8 million** to implement the *Drug and Alcohol Treatment Act*, which will help severely substance dependent people who are at risk of serious harm and are unable to consent to treatment, including inpatient and community-based support.

“In tough economic conditions we need to work smarter, to join up services and improve delivery to get the best outcomes for the people of NSW,” Mr Humphries said.

“Since coming into Government, the NSW Liberals & Nationals have led the country when it comes to reforming the way mental health services are delivered.

“Through this Budget we are continuing our commitment to provide the investment needed to improve mental health and drug and alcohol services and outcomes right throughout NSW.

“The NSW Government is committed to making a real difference to the lives of people with mental illness and our community as a whole, to improving services and to meaningful reform and I am proud to say that has been reflected in this Budget.”