



Kevin Humphries MP

Minister for Mental Health

Minister for Healthy Lifestyles

Minister for Western NSW

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW WELCOMES FOCUS OF NATIONAL REPORT CARD ON MENTAL HEALTH

NSW Minister for Mental Health, Kevin Humphries, and NSW Mental Health Commissioner, John Feneley, have welcomed the National Mental Health Commission's endorsement of the NSW Government's push to improve the physical healthcare of people with a mental illness in its first Report Card into the state of mental health in Australia.

Mr Humphries said it was pleasing to see that the Report Card centred on the NSW Government's three key areas for reform in mental health: ways to help people with a mental illness find stable accommodation, a meaningful job and maintain good physical health.

"During the process of establishing the National Mental Health Commission I urged the Federal Government to focus on these key areas in order to best support the more than three million Australians whose lives are touched by mental illness each year, and it is pleasing to see those issues coming through in the Commission's first Report Card," Mr Humphries said.

"It is particularly pleasing to see the Report Card has a specific focus on the physical healthcare of people with a mental illness.

"This is an area I am passionate about, and I have already written to my State and Territory counterparts to participate in a national summit on the physical health of people with a mental illness in Sydney early next year."

Mr Humphries said that while it was pleasing to see the National Mental Health Commission has made these recommendations, for proper reform to occur it is vital that the Federal Government provides a co-ordinated funding commitment.

"The Report Card correctly states that for true reform to occur there needs to be less focus on announcements and more focus on delivery," Mr Humphries said.

"This not only means there needs to be a greater investment in mental health, but there needs to be an improved partnership with the States to ensure that services are delivered into areas of greatest need."

NSW Mental Health Commissioner, John Feneley, said he was looking forward to working with the National Commission to drive these important reforms.

"The Report Card shines a light on many of the matters that were identified as priority areas for NSW during the extensive community consultation which led to the establishment of the NSW Mental Health Commission," Mr Feneley said.

“It also highlights the fact that responsibility for preventing mental illness and achieving effective early intervention when it occurs is shared jointly between State and Federal governments.”