



Kevin Humphries MP

Minister for Mental Health

Minister for Healthy Lifestyles

Minister for Western NSW

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 13th December 2012

NEW PARTNERSHIP BRINGS DUBBO MENTAL HEALTH UNIT ONE STEP CLOSER

NSW Minister for Mental Health, Kevin Humphries, today announced the successful tender for the operation of the new \$7.2 million Dubbo Mental Health Rehabilitation and Recovery Centre.

The new ten bed sub-acute mental health unit, funded by the Federal Government under the COAG New Sub Acute Beds Guarantee, will form an integral part of the Western NSW Local Health District's mental health services.

Mr Humphries said Neami Limited, a non-government organisation with a strong track record in running similar facilities in Victoria, has been awarded the contract to run the unit.

"This new state of the art facility will allow people aged 18 and over with mental health conditions and who have been discharged from hospital to undergo further rehabilitation and treatment services, and connect with the community and their family before going home," Mr Humphries said.

"It is also designed to help adults from the community requiring a short period of early intervention in a rehabilitation environment in order to prevent hospitalisation.

"The design of the facility reflects a domestic environment, with individual rooms, and a strong connection with outdoor areas, which will enhance recovery.

"This announcement follows on from last week's announcement of the successful tender for the \$6.6 million Broken Hill mental health unit, which reflects the NSW Government's strong focus on improving mental health services throughout the State."

Neami is a non-government mental health organisation that provides rehabilitation and recovery support to people with a serious mental illness who require assistance in areas of skill development, social contact and housing.

Director of Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Services, Dr Russell Roberts, said the announcement follows a decision made in 2011 to operate the Centre in partnership with a non-government organisation.

"I welcome this new partnership between the Western NSW Local Health District Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Service and Neami," Dr Roberts said.

"I am looking forward to the unit being opened and delivering the best quality care to the residents of Dubbo and the Western region."