



Kevin Humphries MP

Minister for Mental Health

Minister for Healthy Lifestyles

Minister for Western NSW

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 13th February 2013

GROUND-BREAKING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE OPENS IN BROKEN HILL

Mental health services in Far-West NSW will be significantly enhanced following the opening of the \$6.6 million Broken Hill Mental Health Sub-Acute Facility by the Minister for Mental Health and Minister for Western NSW, Kevin Humphries, today.

Mr Humphries said the new unit, funded by the Federal Government under the COAG New Sub Acute Beds Guarantee, will form an integral part of the Far West Local Health District's (FWLHD) mental health services.

"This impressive new ten-bed, state-of-the-art mental health sub-acute facility will allow more people who need additional support to manage a mental health condition to receive that support in their local community, close to their families, friends, workplaces and schools," Mr Humphries said.

Built on the grounds of the Broken Hill Hospital, the facility will accommodate people who may be showing some signs of mental illness, but who are not so unwell that they need an acute mental health admission.

"It will also provide treatment to people who have recovered sufficiently to be discharged from the hospital's acute Mental Health Inpatient Unit, but would benefit from more time in a supported environment," Mr Humphries said.

"This facility will allow treatment in a non-restrictive, home-like environment that will greatly assist recovery and allow people to integrate into the community.

"Broken Hill has a modern mental health facility to be proud of and I am extremely pleased to be in the city today to declare it officially open.

"This announcement demonstrates the NSW Government's commitment to providing increased mental health services to the people of NSW no matter where they live."

The facility will be operated by Neami Limited, a non-government organisation with a strong track record in running similar facilities in Victoria. Neami Limited will provide day to day management of the unit, staffing a 24/7 day roster to support residents. Construction of the facility was undertaken by National Buildplan.

Member for Murray-Darling, John Williams, said the facility will usher in a new standard of mental health care for people living in the Far West.

"I would like to congratulate everyone involved with this project for their commitment, enthusiasm and the sheer hard work it takes to build and develop a new service," Mr Williams said.