



Kevin Humphries MP

Minister for Mental Health

Minister for Healthy Lifestyles

Minister for Western NSW

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 11th March 2013

COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS APPOINTED TO MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

A major milestone in the NSW Government's on-going reforms of the State's mental health system has been reached with the appointment of four Deputy Commissioners to the NSW Mental Health Commission.

NSW Minister for Mental Health, Kevin Humphries today announced the inaugural NSW Deputy Mental Health Commissioners are:

- **Fay Jackson** – CEO Vision in Mind
- **Professor Alan Rosen** – Psychiatrist, Brain and Mind Research Institute
- **Bradley Foxlewin** – Community educator in mental health
- **Robyn Shields** – Registrar in Psychiatry

Mr Humphries said that, importantly, two of the four Deputy Commissioners have lived experience of serious mental illness, providing the Commission with a unique insight into the challenges of reforming the State's mental health system.

"During the extensive public consultations that were held across the State on how the Commission should operate, one of the strongest messages we heard was that it was important that there is a senior level first-hand experience of mental illness," Mr Humphries said.

"Having members with lived experience of mental illness, who understand the stigma and the discrimination that people affected by mental illness often experience, and have tried to navigate the mental health system themselves, will be invaluable to the Commission in its work to improve services and outcomes for mental health patients, their families and carers across NSW.

"It also demonstrates that mental illness should not be a barrier to work, leadership and contribution to our communities."

New Deputy Commissioner, Bradley Foxlewin, said his experience juggling work with his battle against anxiety, dissociation and depression led him to create training courses that educate government and community sectors on how best to accommodate people living with a mental illness.

"Understanding how that works has been one of the biggest parts of the recovery process for me. Now I'm delighted to take up the role of Deputy Commissioner of the Mental Health Commission of NSW," Mr Foxlewin said.

Mr Humphries said the Deputy Commissioners will work with Commissioner John Feneley on a strategic direction for mental health in NSW.

“The establishment of the NSW Mental Health Commission has been one of the most important reforms in the field of mental health in the State’s history,” Mr Humphries said.

“It has been created to drive a more accountable and efficient mental health system and, most importantly, enhance the mental health and well-being of the people of NSW.

“The Deputy Commissioners will assist the Commissioner in ensuring mental health services are appropriately designed and targeted, and review, monitor and report to the Government, the Parliament and the public on how the system is working, to ensure we are using funding effectively to deliver real results.”