



Kevin Humphries MP

Minister for Mental Health

Minister for Healthy Lifestyles

Minister for Western NSW

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW CONTINUES IMPORTANT MENTAL HEALTH REFORM

The report on the review of the *NSW Mental Health Act 2007* was today tabled in Parliament by Minister for Mental Health, Kevin Humphries.

Mr Humphries said the review was held to ensure the most compassionate care and appropriate treatment is given to people with a mental illness in NSW, and to ensure the Act offers adequate protections to the rights of those in NSW with a mental illness.

“The *NSW Mental Health Act 2007* is one of the most important pieces of legislation we have as through it the rights and protections of some of the most vulnerable people in our communities – those with a mental illness – are protected,” Mr Humphries said.

“The purpose of the review was to examine the effectiveness and relevance of the Act, and to ensure the protections and care offered to mental health consumers under it are appropriate.”

Mr Humphries said he committed to a wide-ranging review to ensure that the Act supports contemporary, evidence-based best practice and provides confidence to mental health consumers, carers, the workforce and broader community, taking into account Government priorities, including:

- admission and discharge, including the role of primary carers, involuntary and voluntary detention;
- the role, functions and coordination of the different oversight bodies in mental health, such as the Official Visitors and the Mental Health Review Tribunal; and
- consent to non-mental health treatment.

The review incorporated a comprehensive community consultation process and the provision of expert advice from the peak consumer and carer groups and key mental health and legal experts led by NSW Mental Health Commissioner, John Feneley, National Mental Health Commission member, The Hon. Rob Knowles, New Zealand Mental Health Commissioner, Dr Lynne Lane, and senior lecturer at the Brain and Mind Research Institute, Sebastian Rosenberg.

“The best chance we have to guarantee the success of this vital reform is to ensure that any empowering and enabling changes to the Act reflect the needs identified by the community through this extensive public consultation process,” Mr Humphries said.

“The community and experts have said to the Government that, on balance, the structure of the Act is robust, however strong direction has been provided on areas that could be improved.

“It is important to ensure we do not adopt a piecemeal approach to the reforms and

and the community prior to specific amendments being proposed to the Act.

“Along with the establishment of the NSW Mental Health Commission, this review is yet another vital step forward in the NSW Government’s plan to improve mental health services and delivery for every person in the State.”

The final report is now available and can be downloaded from:

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/mhdao/Pages/Review-of-the-NSW-Mental-Health-Act-2007.aspx>