



# **Kevin Humphries MP**

## **Minister for Mental Health**

## **Minister for Healthy Lifestyles**

## **Minister for Western NSW**

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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#### **BREAKING THE CYCLE OF HOMELESSNESS AND HOSPITALISATION IN NSW**

Some of the most vulnerable and marginalised people with a mental illness in NSW will receive increased support to help them live independently in the community and recover from their illness, Minister for Mental Health Kevin Humphries announced today.

Mr Humphries today launched the Housing and Accommodation Support Initiative (HASI) Plus, which will see over \$35 million provided over the next four years for 58 new support packages that will provide around-the-clock care and support for people living with severe mental illness.

“Through HASI Plus the NSW Government is reaching out to those in communities across NSW with a severe mental illness who require increased support to help them recover and participate in the community by providing them with access to safe and secure housing as well as services that will help them overcome their mental illness,” Mr Humphries said.

“We know that people with a severe mental illness have the best chance of recovery when they are supported in a stable community-based environment close to their family and friends.

“By ensuring people with a severe mental illness have access to affordable, safe and stable housing close to clinical mental health and rehabilitation services and support they have a far greater chance of overcoming their illness and living fulfilling and successful lives in their communities.”

The 58 packages will be run by RichmondPRA (15 in Tamworth, 4 in Newcastle), Uniting Care (20 in Carlingford) and New Horizons (19 in Narraweena, Eastwood, North Ryde and Chatswood) and are funded through the National Partnership Agreement on Mental Health.

“Through this innovative new program the NSW Government will reach out to people who have often either bounced in and out of prison or become stuck in long-term mental health wards because the high level of care that they needed to live in the community was not available,” Mr Humphries said.

“The services will be provided through 16 and 24 hour per day support packages which will also aim to reduce homelessness, improve the physical health of people with a serious mental illness and help people build and maintain social relationships.

“This commitment is significant because it targets some of the most marginalised and vulnerable in our communities and gives them the support they need to get their lives back on track and start to find again some meaning and purpose in their lives.

“It also highlights the NSW Government’s commitment to improving the lives of people with a serious mental illness no matter where they live in the state.”