



Kevin Humphries MP

Minister for Mental Health

Minister for Healthy Lifestyles

Minister for Western NSW

MEDIA RELEASE

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ENSURING THE RIGHTS AND DIGNITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE WITH PSYCHOSIS

Treatment of young people with psychosis in NSW will be guided by a set of principles that protects the dignity of the person and improves their treatment outcomes, Minister for Mental Health Kevin Humphries announced today.

Mr Humphries said the NSW Government will adopt the principles of the internationally recognised Healthy Active Lives (HeAL) campaign, which aims to reverse the trend of people with serious mental illness dying significantly earlier than the rest of the community, and encourages young people with psychosis to enjoy healthy and active lives as part of their recovery.

“Knowing that people with serious mental illness die up to 25 years earlier than the general population, we must change how we think about how to address the physical impacts of mental illness and the rate of avoidable death from issues like cardiovascular, respiratory and infectious diseases,” Mr Humphries said.

“Today I am very pleased to announce that the NSW Government is adopting the principles of the HeAL campaign, because I believe that every single young person experiencing a first episode of psychosis has a number of rights.

“These principles form the basis of the internationally recognised work undertaken by NSW clinician Dr Jackie Curtis with the Bondi Early Psychosis Program, which has been at the forefront of the drive to end the inexcusable rate of premature deaths among people with severe mental illness.

“These are important principles that ensure young people with psychosis are treated with the dignity they deserve and will combat the discrimination and prejudice that often prevents young people who experience psychosis from leading a healthy, active life.

“Early adult-hood is a crucial time in all of our lives; it is a time where we set the foundations for a career, establish our most important relationships outside of our immediate families, and set a course for the rest of our lives.

“Young people with mental illness want the same thing as everyone else - a fulfilling life enriched with close connections to family and friends, good health and wellbeing to allow those connections to be enjoyed, and having something to do each day that provides meaning and purpose.

“The NSW Government is committed to ensuring young people living with psychosis have that fundamental right to live the same fulfilling lives as their friends and family.”

For more information on the HeAL campaign please visit www.iphys.org.au.