



MEDIA RELEASE

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BUDGET INCREASES SPENDING ON MENTAL HEALTH

The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government will boost spending in mental health care with a record \$1.6 billion commitment in the 2014-15 NSW Budget.

Minister for Mental Health Jai Rowell said the record mental health budget was proof of the NSW Government's ongoing commitment to addressing mental health across NSW, and providing patients with integrated and responsive care.

"The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government has once again demonstrated its dedication to tackling mental illness, and this further increase in spending on mental health services and infrastructure shows we are fair dinkum about providing patients with first rate care," Mr Rowell said.

"This is the fourth straight budget to increase mental health funding, which shows our commitment to meeting the state's mental health care needs.

"Our state's mental health care needs are both complex and ever increasing. This Budget provides a firm footing so that the provision of mental health services cater appropriately to emerging areas of need."

Major mental health projects to attract funding in the 2014-15 NSW Budget include:

- \$27 million to meet the demand for additional acute care mental health services together with enhancing sub-acute mental health services, including \$1.4 million to assist patients overcoming drug issues through the provision of eight new detox beds at Westmead Hospital,
- \$2 million towards the implementation of the state's first ever eating disorders plan, as part of a \$15.2 million investment over five years, and;
- \$1.8 million to fund the 'LikeMind' pilot of the fully integrated community based care for adults living with mental illness in Nepean/Blue Mountains and Western Sydney.

"This Budget is proof positive of the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government's commitment to not only provide top level responsive care for those in our community made vulnerable through mental health issues, but also to focus on prevention, early intervention and to address the causes of mental illness," Mr Rowell said.

"I am proud to be able to deliver such a solid investment in our state's mental health care services, and in projects such as the 'LikeMind' pilot and the eating disorders plan, which provide innovative ways of responding to the mental health needs of NSW residents."