



MEDIA RELEASE

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ROWELL REAFFIRMS NSW GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT TO MENTAL HEALTH

Minister for Mental Health Jai Rowell highlighted the NSW Government's record of achievement in addressing mental health this week, as part an address to Parliament outlining his plans to transform mental health care services across NSW.

Mr Rowell said the NSW Government had given improved level of support to people across the state who are touched by mental illness.

"Since 2011 this Government has increased recurrent expenditure in Mental Health by 17.4 per cent to a record \$1.45 billion in this financial year," Mr Rowell said.

"This Government has placed a priority on providing customer focussed services for mental health consumers. Mental Health is a condition that can affect people of all ages - across all communities. It does not discriminate.

"We are focusing on prevention, early intervention, and integrated services to address the causes, not just treating the symptoms. In detailing his vision for the future of mental health care service provision, Mr Rowell drew attention to key accomplishments already obtained by the NSW Government, including;

The establishment of the NSW Mental Health Line, which since early 2012 has delivered a single state-wide telephone service 24/7 staffed by mental health professionals.

- \$3.4 million for improved access to specialist child and adolescent mental health services within the community and better outreach services to families.
- \$2 million annually in increased funding to Lifeline for telephone and counselling services.
- The launch of the State's first Eating Disorders Plan, committing \$15.2 million over five years to ensure we treat more people.
- \$10 million over four years to boost programs to reduce drug and alcohol addiction.

"I am most proud of the work that this Government is delivering with Non-Government Organisations for community based, consumer focussed services, when they are needed and where they can have the greatest impact," Mr Rowell said.

"We continue to strengthen community based responses and together make sure the stigma previously associated with mental illness is permanently left in the past."