



# Jai Rowell MP

Minister for Mental Health  
Assistant Minister for Health

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **“LIKEMIND” PILOT TO DELIVER BETTER MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR WESTERN SYDNEY RESIDENTS**

Minister for Mental Health Jai Rowell today signalled the first major step towards an innovative new mental health care service for residents of Western Sydney, with the announcement of the successful tender bid for the operation of the ‘LikeMind’ integrated mental health service.

Mr Rowell said he was excited to be able to announce UnitingCare Mental Health as the successful tenderers for the operation of the ‘LikeMind’ Penrith and Seven Hills pilot sites.

“‘LikeMind’ will pilot an innovative new model of mental health care which will see a full range of services and health care professionals come together to provide a more holistic approach to tackling mental illness,” Mr Rowell said.

“With the NSW Government having contributed \$1.8 million this year towards the establishment of these two trial sites we are committed to delivering more cohesive mental health care services to the people of Western Sydney, and services that are more responsive to their needs.

“Too often we hear of people living with mental illness and their families becoming frustrated as they feel as if they are constantly being buffeted from one service to the next.

“This pilot service aims to address those concerns by co-locating a range of mental health care professionals from the government and non-government sectors to ensure all our client’s needs can be addressed in the one space.

“As people living with mental illness often face a range of other difficulties as a result of their illness, a range of other services will also be on hand to assist with their physical health and social engagement, including support to get people back into the workforce.

“UnitingCare is already in the process of attracting a range of mental health care practitioners and other support service operators into the Seven Hills and Penrith sites, and I look forward to seeing both centres up and running later this year.

“Once established, this program has the potential to be rolled out in other areas of the state, and comes as further proof that the NSW Government is serious about providing mental health care that is readily accessible and responsive to the needs of people living with mental illness.”