



## **Pru Goward**

Minister for Mental Health

Minister for Medical Research

Assistant Minister for Health

Minister for Women

Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Thursday, 3 December 2015

### **MINISTER GOWARD WELCOMES THE LARGEST PHILANTHROPIC DONATION TO SUICIDE PREVENTION**

Minister for Mental Health and Minister for Medical Research Pru Goward today joined the Black Dog Institute, the Paul Ramsay Foundation and the NSW Mental Health Commission to announce a contribution of \$14.76 million from the Paul Ramsay Foundation, which will provide a new, evidence-based approach to suicide prevention in NSW.

Ms Goward said the evidence based framework to be used in the trial was developed by the Black Dog Institute and the Centre for Research Excellence in Suicide Prevention (CRESP) with the support of the NSW Government.

“This world-first trial will use a whole of community response to support those at risk of suicide and self-harm,” Ms Goward said.

“This is a wonderful example of a model of collaboration that we need to see; philanthropy and research institutes working together with government and the non-government sector to help solve health and social problems.

“I am looking forward to the strong partnership between NSW Health, the Black Dog Institute, the Mental Health Commission of NSW and the Paul Ramsay Foundation to reduce the risk and improve the lives of people at risk of suicide and self-harm.”

A systems approach to suicide prevention involves the implementation of nine key strategies that target suicide risk both through medical and social interventions such as training front line staff and continuing care for the patient after leaving hospital.

Services are tailored to meet local needs and coordinated within the community by local hospitals, primary healthcare providers, education providers, local police, community groups and other stakeholders.

Prof Helen Christensen, Director of the Black Dog Institute said this donation represents the largest philanthropic donation ever given to suicide prevention activities in Australia.

“The funding from the Paul Ramsay Foundation, in partnership with the support of NSW Government, will enable us to save many lives and create a suicide prevention framework that is both effective and sustainable,” Ms Christensen said.