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\$1.45 BILLION COMMITMENT TO HELP MORE PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

Increasing access to treatment for people with eating disorders across the state is one of a range of initiatives contained within the 2013-14 Budget that will improve services and outcomes for people in NSW living with a mental illness.

NSW Minister for Mental Health, Kevin Humphries, said the government will spend **\$1.45 billion** on mental health services and initiatives in the Budget, a **17.4 per cent increase in the mental health Budget** since coming into government.

"In the face of very difficult Budget conditions the NSW Government has delivered a record investment on mental health for the third Budget in a row, highlighting our commitment to improving the lives of those who have been touched by mental illness," Mr Humphries said.

"This funding will improve and expand services and deliver better outcomes for patients, their families and carers across NSW."

Mr Humphries said among the major funding commitments in the 2013-14 Mental Health Budget include **\$26 million** for the expansion of mental health services including at Shoalhaven, Liverpool, Wagga Wagga, St George, Blacktown, Nepean, Hornsby, and Prince of Wales Hospitals.

The Budget also includes **\$1.8 million** to pilot a new and innovative model of integrated community-based care and services for adults with mental illness, to better support people's access to services and ongoing recovery in the community.

The NSW Government is also committing **\$1.6 million** in 2013-14 to enhance access to inpatient and community-based treatment and services to better respond early and effectively to people with eating disorders.

"The NSW Government understands just how cruel and distressing eating disorders can be, and the impact living with an eating disorder can have on a person's life," Mr Humphries said.

"The prevalence of eating disorders is an extremely serious issue and that is why the NSW Government is committed to ensuring that people suffering with eating disorders have access to the most appropriate support and treatment.

"This commitment will increase access to inpatient and community based treatment and services, build the ability of our clinicians to treat those with eating disorders and support the ability of people with eating disorders in regional communities to get earlier and more effective treatment."

Other major funding initiatives for the 2013-14 Budget include **\$400,000** to assist the Brain and Mind Research Institute at the University of Sydney to establish two Chairs in Depression and in Child and Youth Mental Health to support children and young people with emerging mental health and mood disorders.

The NSW Government has also committed **\$41.4 million** for capital works funding in 2013-14 to continue to build the investment needed in mental health services including:

- **\$39.9 million** to continue work on the Missenden Mental Health Unit at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital at an estimated total cost of \$67 million.
- **\$879,000** to complete construction of the Nepean Hospital Redevelopment Stage 3A at an estimated total cost of \$46.8 million. This is a jointly funded project between the Australian and NSW Governments through the Health and Hospitals Fund.
- **\$450,000** to continue the Hornsby Hospital Adult Acute and Child/Adolescent Mental Health Unit at an estimated total cost of \$33.6 million.
- **\$75,000** to complete construction of the Child/Adolescent Mental Health Unit at Sydney Children's Hospital at an estimated total cost of \$27.7 million.
- **\$75,000** to complete the construction of the Prince of Wales Mental Health Intensive Care Unit at an estimated total cost of \$13.4 million.

Mr Humphries said that through the 2013-14 Budget the NSW Government is continuing its commitment to provide the investment needed to improve mental health and drug and alcohol services and outcomes right throughout NSW.

“Since coming into government, the NSW Liberals & Nationals have led the nation when it comes to reforming the way mental health services are delivered and this year's Budget is yet another demonstration of that,” Mr Humphries said.

“The NSW Government is committed to making a real difference to the lives of people with mental illness and our community as a whole, to improving services and to meaningful reform, and I am proud to say that has been reflected in this Budget.”