



The Hon Kevin Humphries MP
Minister for Mental Health
Minister for Healthy Lifestyles
Minister for Western NSW

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 16th May 2011

SCHIZOPHRENIA AWARENESS WEEK

Minister for Mental Health Kevin Humphries today launched Schizophrenia Awareness Week at the Cornucopia Café and Nursery, Gladesville, at a morning tea with mental health carers and clients of the mental health rehabilitation facility.

Putting to rest months of speculation about the future of the Old Gladesville Hospital site, Mr Humphries issued a directive to NSW Health that there will be no changes to the current model of care operating at Cornucopia Café and Nursery. This follows attempts by the former NSW Labor Government to dismantle the program.

Mr Humphries said there would be no mandatory requirement for a patient to leave the program after a specified period of time, a notion proposed by the previous Government that caused significant distress to clients, their carers and families.

“Programs like Cornucopia should be encouraged as they play a significant role in helping mental health consumers re-integrate back into the community via flexible employment opportunities,” Mr Humphries said.

“Before the election, we worked hard to ensure the former government delayed its decision on the future of this site.

“The attention brought to the issue by the Sydney Morning Herald, by 2GB broadcaster Alan Jones and others helped pressure the former government not to act with undue haste.

“I can think of no better place than Cornucopia Café and Nursery to launch Schizophrenia Awareness Week,” Mr Humphries said.

The NSW Government has already begun work on establishing a Mental Health Commission, which will consult with the sector and with families and carers, and provide policy advice on this area.

Once set-up, the Mental Health Commission will be tasked with reviewing the Cornucopia Café and Nursery model for potential expansion opportunities.

Address: Cornucopia Café, Old Gladesville Hospital Victoria Rd, Gladesville
Time: morning tea: 10am – 11am, media photo call: 11am-11.30am
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