



The Hon Kevin Humphries MP

Minister for Mental Health

Minister for Healthy Lifestyles

Minister for Western NSW

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 2nd June

GOVERNMENT DELIVERS ON MENTAL HEALTH ELECTION COMMITMENT

Minister for Mental Health Kevin Humphries delivered on the NSW Government's election pledge to reform Mental Health Services in NSW with today's launch of the NSW Mental Health Taskforce.

In announcing the composition of the 13 member Taskforce, the Government has taken the first step towards the formation of the NSW Mental Health Commission. The Mental Health Taskforce will hold its meetings over the coming months and will advise the Government on how best to establish the new Commission.

"We are on track to deliver to the people of NSW a Mental Health Commission that represents world's best practice", Mr Humphries said

By July 2012, the Government will have an operational Mental Health Commission which will ensure that there is quarantined and accountable funding for mental health expenditure and that resources are focused on where they are most needed through the most appropriate models of care.

"The NSW Government is responding to a clear need to provide a better experience for mental health patients and carers, to divert mental health patients away from the prison system, and to help ensure the smooth operation of the Mental Health Review Tribunal," Mr Humphries said

Minister Humphries said that the Taskforce will have broad input to its deliberations and consult widely across New South Wales with the mental health workforce and stakeholders, as well as the broader community.

"To support this, it will be hosting consultation forums with participants from the mental health sector, including the health system, associated government agencies and non government organisations," Mr Humphries said.

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Name	Role	Experience
Kevin Humphries	Chair	NSW Minister for Mental Health
Sebastian Rosenberg	Expert Facilitator	Sebastian was formerly Deputy CEO of the Mental Health Council of Australia, is a current member of the NHMRC Committee on Prevention and Community Health and is currently undertaking a PhD on developing a national mental health report card for Australia
Alan Rosen	Member	Alan is a renowned community psychiatrist, professor of psychiatry, advocate for mental health reform and has written extensively on the role of mental health commissions, quality and standards in mental health.
David Chaplow	Member	David is an internationally renowned psychiatrist. He has been the Director of Mental Health and Chief Advisor on Mental Health to the New Zealand Ministry of Health since 2001.as DAMHS. In 1997 David was appointed as Hon. Clinical Associate Professor at Auckland University. He brings extensive experience to the Taskforce in relation to the New Zealand mental health commission and broader experience in relation to the structure and functioning of the mental health service in New Zealand.
Jenna Bateman	Member	Jenna is CEO of the Mental Health Coordinating Council of NSW, the peak body representing the community-managed mental health sector. She has an organisational and mental health nursing background. Representing the Community Sector
Alan Fels	Member	Alan is a member of the Alfred Health Board and Chairs the Haven Foundation which supports accommodation for the long term mentally ill. He is a Patron of the Mental Health Council of Australia and a member of the National Advisory Council on Mental Health. He is also a Patron of Creativity Australia. Allan is a former Chairman of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission. Together with his professional expertise Alan brings a strong carer perspective to the Taskforce.
Dan Howard	Member	Dan has been practising law for over 30 years. He is a Senior Counsel at the New South Wales Bar, and was a Crown Prosecutor with the Office of the DPP for fifteen years. He is Conjoint Associate Professor in the School of Psychiatry at the University of New South Wales. He is the co-author, of the textbook 'Crime and Mental Health Law in New South Wales'. He is also part-time member of the Mental Health Review Tribunal and in 2008. Dan brings important legal expertise to the Taskforce.
Mary Foley	Member	Mary is a medical practitioner with wide ranging experience across the public and private sector and was recently appointed as Director-General of Health.
Brian Pezzutti	Member	Brian is a practicing Anaesthetist. He is a former Chair of the NSW Government Mental Health Taskforce; former Upper House MLC and former Chair of Upper House Mental Health Committee.

Karin Lines	Member	Karin has over 40 years across the all aspect of mental health care and is a Professor of Mental Health Nursing. Her experience incorporates clinical roles, operational management in a variety of clinical settings; service development and planning; education, quality improvement, policy development and analysis.
Julie Hourigan Ruse	Member	Julie is CEO of NSW CAG and would bring the key voice of consumers to the work of the Taskforce.
Colman O'Driscoll	Member	Colman trained as a psychiatric nurse and has significant experience in a variety of mental health settings in clinical, operational management and academic roles. Prior to being appointed Chief of Staff to the Minister for Mental Health he was the Service Director, Statewide Forensic Mental Health.
David McGrath	Member	David is the Director of Mental Health and Drug & Alcohol Programs at NSW Health and has been in this role for over 5 years. With a background in psychology, research, 20 years clinical experience, and a masters degree in business he has a mix of skills that are appropriate for managing the complex NSW Mental Health and D&A programs.