

Media Release

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He asked for help in all the right places

“A cry for help from a man in acute distress as a result of psychotic illness should be answered and answered immediately – mental health services in NSW must prioritize cries for help like this one above all else” stated Ms Jenna Bateman , Executive Officer of the Mental Health Co-ordinating Council.

“Awale Mohamed and his cousin were unable to access the help they needed - but had sought help in all the right places. Places they had every right to expect would help them.”

‘It is difficult to understand why this man was not admitted to hospital or at the very least followed up closely in the community. This tragic incident was preventable”.

The NSW government must ensure protocols around the care and treatment of people who ask for help are tightened and more resources allocated to ensure preventable deaths are just that – prevented.”

MHCC as the peak body for non-government organizations working in mental health is very aware of the numbers of people accessing community services who are extremely unwell and yet expected to fend for themselves with little support from crisis workers and case managers who have caseloads too high to manage adequately.

“The system is in crisis and desperately needs more frontline staff to answer the cries for help from people like Awale Mohamed – too often people in despair are turned away – the system is failing at the moment to fulfill the obligations a modern society has to its members.”

For further comments please contact:

Jenna Bateman

Executive Officer

Mental Health Coordinating Council

Ph: (02) 9555 8388

Mb: 0411 609870