

## **WESTERN AUSTRALIA - 'MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS CAMPAIGN'**

The WA State Government has withdrawn substantial funding to NGO mental health services, as well as funding promised to key initiatives in the last election campaign. The result will force many NGOs to close. The implications of these funding cuts are not limited to West Australians, there is a real danger other States could follow this same path.

### **Phase 1 - Department of Health cuts:**

- 2003/2004 CPI for non-Government Agencies (\$600,000)
- WACommunity Advocacy Group on Mental Health (\$80,000)
- Trial Project Men's Health Wheatbelt (\$80,000)
- Deferred implementation Multi Systemic Therapy (\$1.2 million)
- Reprioritization of projects Health Consumers Council (\$105,000) (Mental Health Consumer representation, training and support.)
- The Derbarl Yerrigan Community Life Skills Program, which provides a unique service to the indigenous community in the Perth metropolitan region.

**Phase 2** - All non-Government agencies are under scrutiny and review. It is anticipated that the \$2.5 million in cuts to NGO's will take place before December 31st this year.

Campaigning has been coordinated by Western Australian Association for Mental Health (WAAMH) and the Association of Relatives and Friends of the Mentally Ill (ARAFMI). To date they have developed a Lobby Kit, held a rally at Parliament House, handed in petitions from 4700 people, and raised awareness in the media. The newly named, "Mental Health Matters Campaign" will work towards the next election in WA in February 2005.

For more information and to offer your support:

[www.waamh.org.au/saveourservices](http://www.waamh.org.au/saveourservices)