



## **Acceptable Behaviour Agreement pilots underway**

Pilot studies are now underway for the Acceptable Behaviour Agreement (ABA) legislation brought into force in December 2004.

The legislation will enable the Department of Housing to enter into ABAs with tenants who are alleged to be engaging in anti-social behaviour. While the DoH have worked hard to develop a policy framework ensuring people with a mental illness will receive a proper assessment placing them outside the ABA regime, concerns remain about the reality of working within this new regime.

The six month pilots are currently being held in Wagga Wagga and Newcastle with a full evaluation of the implementation of these measures to follow after 12 months of operation.

Meanwhile the DoH are visiting agencies in the pilot areas and seeking support for a cross government approach to the ABA and encouraging client sharing and appropriate referral as required in line with best practice guidelines.

MHCC is also pleased to report that the DoH are providing mental illness awareness education for staff to support the policy guidelines. The training will also promote an improved responsiveness from DoH staff to people with a mental illness who may have unmet needs for health and social services.

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