

## **Clinical Partnership Program**

The NSW Department of Health, Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Office (MHDAO) has been instrumental in bringing together the new network of Area Health Service Clinical Partnership Coordinators under the NSW Government's Interagency Action Plan for Better Mental Health. Coordinators have been operating across NSW Area Health Services since 2006 to ensure agencies coordinate the delivery of mental health services and assist agencies when the involvement of more than one part of Health is required

Improvement in health, well-being and quality of life for people with severe mental illness requires a range of targeted supports and interventions including clinical mental health treatment, disability support and essential community services and resources. These supports and interventions need to be provided in a comprehensive, integrated and coordinated approach across the various service systems.

The aims of the Area Clinical Mental Health Partnership Program (ACMHP) are to provide a senior program position and program development resources in each Area Mental Health Service in order to:

- Develop clinical care networks;
- Develop and monitor referral pathways;
- Be a clinical contact point between AMH Services and other government and community agencies;
- Monitor implementation of partnership agreements/ initiatives;
- Ensure integration of all partnerships with core clinical service activities;
- Identify and facilitate new clinical partnerships and opportunities for collaboration

Area based action plans for the next three years are currently being developed and meetings are being held with other government agencies who are keen to establish similar positions or strategies in their regions.