

Mental Health Implementation Taskforce

Recent Initiatives

Centre for Mental Health

March 2006

Recent initiatives

- Premier referred issues to COAG and mental health subsequently acknowledged as a key issue for reform.
- 50 new HASI high support places approved and allocated to the Inner City (18), Liverpool (8), Inner West (8), Hunter (8) and Western Sydney (8). HASI places now over 700.
- Suicide Risk Assessment and Management Flexible Learning CDROM and online learning package launched.
- NSW suicide rates continue to fall. ABS report released this week shows NSW has its lowest rate for the period of study (1994-2004) and the lowest in the country after the ACT.

Recent initiatives - continued

- Mental Health Unique Patient Identifier (MHUPI) project in final stages. All Area Health Service mental data in the Data Warehouse has been allocated a MH unique ID. Data from the final AHS is about to be added. When this is complete the process will go on line.
- The interface between MHUPI and the State UPI will proceed depending on the result of the current Departmental review of the SUPPI strategy.

COAG Outcomes

- On Friday, 10 February 2005, COAG met and recognised that mental health is a major problem for the Australian community. It acknowledged that governments have made significant recent investments in the area but also noted that additional resources will be required from all governments to address the issues. COAG has asked Senior Officials to prepare an action plan to be brought forward for consideration as soon as possible and no later than June 2006 and include:
- a renewed focus on promotion, prevention and early detection and intervention – including reducing the impact on mental health of substance abuse, including illicit drugs (such as cannabis and amphetamine-type substances) and alcohol;

COAG - continued

- getting the balance right between hospital care, community and primary care and the best type of accommodation for people who are unable to manage on their own;
- improving and integrating the care system to enable the right care to be accessed at the right time, including mental health services, primary care, general practice, private psychiatric services and emergency department services;
- improving participation in the community and employment, including greater use of non government organisations and improved community based and cross sectoral supports for people with mental illness and their families such as supported accommodation, rehabilitation services and respite care; and

COAG - continued

- addressing structural issues such as workforce changes including the roles of different professions;
- increasing the role of psychologists and other health professionals in primary care; and
- increasing the health workforce available to address mental health issues.
- COAG also agreed that the delivery of mental health services would be an integral element of the new National Health Call Centre Network.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Progress report accepted by Minister and tabled in parliament
- Community Mental Health Strategy being developed
- Planning Framework Final Draft form
- Emergency Care Rollout on track
 - PECS
 - Rural Trial
- Family and Cares Rollout on Track