

Results Announced for Personal Helpers and Mentors Program

Autumn 2007: View from the Peak

The Personal Helpers and Mentors Program is an initiative of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) National Action Plan on Mental Health 2006-2011 to assist people aged 16 and over with a severe functional limitation resulting from a severe mental illness to better manage their daily activities and to access a range of appropriate services/supports when they need them.

Program design was based on extensive consultations with the mental health sector and the community. The program aims to create opportunities for recovery by increasing personal capacity and self reliance, overcoming social isolation, and increasing connections to the community.

Funding for the program is \$284.8 million over five years to provide approximately 900 full time equivalent Personal Helpers and Mentors.

Applications for demonstration sites to test the Personal Helpers and Mentors Program closed on Friday 2 March 2007. These sites were selected by the COAG Mental Health Groups in each state and territory.

On 5 April 2007, the Prime Minister announced the successful service providers for the 28 demonstration sites across Australia. A full list of the demonstration sites and service providers is available on the department's website www.facsia.gov.au/mentalhealth.

The demonstration sites will test the program design, including the location of the sites, the team model approach, effectiveness of the participant eligibility screening tool being developed by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare for FaCSIA, and the program's impact on different special needs groups such as Indigenous Australians and young people.

For the second rollout of the Personal Helpers and Mentors Program, the department has again sought recommendations from the state and territory governments on where these sites should be located.

The Personal Helpers and Mentors Program Round 2 competitive selection process will be advertised in May 2007.

Successful Service Providers

State	Site	Service Provider
1. ACT	Canberra City	Mental Health Foundation
2. ACT	Southside	Woden Community Service
3. NSW	Campbelltown	Macarthur Disability Service
4. NSW	Central Coast	New Horizons
5. NSW	Newcastle	Mission Australia
6. NSW	Orange	Mission Australia
7. NSW	Parramatta	Uniting Church trading as Parramatta Mission
8. NSW	Ryde	New Horizons
9. NSW	Sydney – Inner City	Centacare Catholic Community Services
10. NSW	Wollongong	Neami Limited
11. NT	Darwin-Palmerston	Mission Australia
12. NT	Katherine – Katherine urban	Australian Red Cross
13. NT	Top End	Australian Red Cross
14. QLD	Gold Coast	Mental Illness Fellowship Victoria
15. QLD	Inner Brisbane	Open Minds
16. QLD	Logan	Youth and Family Services
17. QLD	Sunshine Coast	Ozcare
18. QLD	Townsville	Ozcare
19. SA	Elizabeth	Anglicare
20. SA	North and Far West Country	Mission Australia
21. TAS	Launceston	Mission Australia
22. VIC	Barwon	The Salvation Army (VIC) Property Trust
23. VIC	Eastern - Outer East	Eastern Access Community Health
24. VIC	Melbourne – Inner South	Richmond Fellowship Victoria
25. VIC	Melbourne – Inner West	The Salvation Army (VIC) Property Trust
26. WA	Albany	Community First Inc
27. WA	Armadale	Ruah Community Services
28. WA	Peel, Rockingham and Kwinana	Community First Inc