

NSW PROGRAMS

Recovery & Resource Services Program

The NSW Government is spending \$9M over the next three years on The Recovery and Resource Services Program (RRSP) to help people with a mental illness to connect with mainstream community, social, leisure and vocational education services. Funding will be provided to NGOs to support people with a mental illness to reintegrate back into society and to improve the quality of their lives.

The program has targeted areas across the state with a particular need for more mental health rehabilitation services. The RRSP will allow consumers to have the opportunity to participate in their own care in order to access different resources, depending on their individual needs.

The RRSP will integrate and link with existing NSW Health programs, including the Mental Health Rehabilitation Program, the Housing and Accommodation Support Initiative (HASI) and the NSW Family and Carer Mental Health Program.

New Horizons is delighted to be involved in RRSP which will be part of the continuum of support providing individualised rehabilitation and recovery services focussing on access to community, social, leisure and vocational opportunities. This service will utilise similar networks as HASI and will be an extension of the partnerships with the local AHS Mental Health Services. All of the AHSs have HASI, but not all have RRSP. Those AHS that have both HASI and RRSP do not necessarily have both in the same locality. This means that the partnerships with the AHS Mental Health Services will vary. In addition, some AHS Mental Health Services also have the Commonwealth funded Personal Helpers and Mentors Program which adds a further strengthening of the partnerships between the MHS and the NGO.

The successful sites and NGOs for the RRSP have just been announced and are:

- Mission Australia – Parkes Forbes, Bathurst Cowra, Dubbo, Bowral; Neami Ltd - Liverpool, Ulladulla, Sutherland;
- New Horizons Enterprises Ltd - Port Macquarie, Kempsey, Lismore Ballina Casino;
- Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association - Cootamundra Tumut Young, Temora Junee West Wyalong, Moree, Armidale, Taree Foster, Maitland Cessnock, Blacktown;
- Schizophrenia Fellowship of NSW Inc - Wagga Wagga;
- St Luke's Anglicare - Albury.

HASI in the Home – Stage 4B

The Housing and Accommodation Support Initiative (HASI) is a partnership program funded by the NSW government that ensures stable housing linked to specialist support for people with mental health problems. The program is a partnership between NSW Health, Department of Housing and the NGO sector. The program has a recovery focus and provides permanent housing and long term flexible support that takes into account varying levels of recurring episodes or ongoing levels of psychiatric symptoms and disability in individuals.

For the first time in the HASI program, accommodation support, provided by HASI NGOs will be available to assist people wherever they live. Consumers do not have to be living in social housing to receive accommodation support; for this reason there is no specific housing stock attached to this stage of the program.

Under HASI Stage 4B – HASI in the Home, NSW Health is providing \$5 million per annum

funding for 80 packages of medium level accommodation support (\$35,000) and 160 packages of lower level accommodation support (\$11,000) for people who have a mental illness. There will also be 8 flexible support funding packages (\$55,000) provided – one to each Area Health Service. The aim is to provide a way of funding extra support when consumers of HASI need it, for example, when a person comes out of hospital and may need increased support for a short time. HASI in the Home will be implemented equally (10 medium support and 20 lower support packages each) across all eight of the Area Health services and NGOs will enter into contracts at local levels with the relevant Area Health Service.

Successful service providers were recently announced for Stage 4B - HASI in the Home:

- Uniting Care (60 places)
- New Horizons (45 places)
- Richmond Fellowship of NSW (28 places)
- Neami (37 places)
- PRA (49 places)
- St Lukes Anglicare (11 places)
- Mission Australia (10 places)

Aftercare's HASI for Kooris

The Housing and Accommodation Support Initiative (HASI) has now developed a new and unique model to suit Aboriginal people with a mental illness. HASI for Kooris will keep the same principles as the original HASI model but be more flexible about service delivery. This new HASI service will be managed by Aftercare and is being run as a pilot for 12 months with the hope of extension.

HASI for Kooris will aim to suit Aboriginal culture including an awareness of extended family connections.

HASI for Kooris has been very well received by the Aboriginal community and Aftercare has already developed many solid links with communities in the Penrith area. Importantly, from the beginning an Aboriginal Mental Health Worker has been guiding Aftercare in the set up of the project and will provide ongoing input throughout the pilot. Aftercare acknowledges the significant contribution of the Aboriginal partners who have provided consistent interest, assistance and support to the project. "We are hoping the program will make recovery accessible to the Aboriginal community by capitalising on local knowledge" said Pedro Diaz, Manager of Aftercare and the HASI program.

Aftercare has now employed Robyn Albert, a full time Aboriginal worker with many years experience in community development and a good understanding of the dynamics of mental health within the Aboriginal community. She will provide HASI recovery focused services to Aboriginal people with a mental illness in the Sydney West area. Aftercare hopes to be providing services for up to 12 Aboriginal people with a mental illness over the coming year and so far eight Aboriginal people have made contact with the project. Aftercare continues to make contact with community leaders and presentations are being given to further the interest and excitement that has already been generated in the Aboriginal community.