



Improvements to eating disorders treatment on track with Minister Hunt's commitment to health system reform

SYDNEY - Responding to the strong support for the launch of the 2018 MAYDAYS for eating disorders campaign today, Butterfly Foundation pays tribute to the importance of the changes delivered over the last 12 months by the Federal Minister for Health Greg Hunt, that give hope for the future treatment of eating disorders.

Butterfly commends Minister Hunt's leadership on reform for eating disorders, noting that under his watch essential work has commenced on the systemic changes that are required to meet the needs of those with these serious illnesses for the first time.

Butterfly Foundation's Chair David Murray AO, applauds the Minister's commitment to review the Medicare response to eating disorders as a significant step forward towards increasing treatment options.

"Australia's Medicare system provides a foundation for the delivery of health care to all Australians. It is an essential component of everyone's access to appropriate health care and treatment, regardless of your personal circumstances.

"Over the past 12 months Minister Hunt has ensured eating disorders are included in the Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan, increased national eating disorders online service 1800 ED HOPE, and invested in workforce capacity development.

The Minister has launched the national policy the [National Agenda for Eating Disorders](#) and has recently supported the need for dedicated eating disorders research.

The Medicare Review will address affordability of services in the public system.

Butterfly Foundation's CEO Christine Morgan notes we are at the end of the beginning, eating disorders are recognised in the national mental health reform agenda.

"As a consequence, Butterfly's commitment to Australians at risk of or with an eating disorder having access to early intervention and treatment services, is emboldened."

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Anyone needing support with eating disorders or body image issues is encouraged to contact **Butterfly's National Helpline 1800 ED HOPE on 1800 33 4673** or support@thebutterflyfoundation.org.au

For urgent support call Lifeline 13 11 14