

Charter 2020: Time To Fix Mental Health

The Hon Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister
PO Box 6022
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

16 September 2019

Dear Prime Minister

Re: Charter 2020: Time To Fix Mental Health

We the undersigned have been very encouraged by your commitment to improving Australia's mental health.

We the undersigned have been encouraged by your Treasurer's comments in his 2019 budget speech that "mental health is an issue of deep concern to all Australians."

We the undersigned have been encouraged by your personal commitment to reducing youth suicide and Indigenous suicide, and by the personal passion of your Minister for Health to act on lasting mental health reform.

And we the undersigned welcomed the Coalition Government's strategic vision in establishing a Productivity Commission Inquiry into Mental Health. An Inquiry that has received over 500 submissions, and an Inquiry that will provide your Government with a once in a generation opportunity to fix mental health in Australia.

In support of your reform agenda, we have developed a consensus statement. Enclosed with this letter is our Charter 2020: Time To Fix Mental Health outlining nine key areas of mental health reform – all agreed by the undersigned.

We the undersigned stand ready to assist you and your Government to implement the very real reforms that will be required as a result of the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Mental Health.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss our shared ambitions with you, and would invite you to do this on Tuesday 26 November, 2019 at the Mental Health Australia Members Policy Forum at Parliament House in Canberra.

It is time to fix mental health. Let's not miss this important and lifesaving opportunity.

Sincerely,

Australia's mental health requires urgent action. The Productivity Commission Inquiry into Mental Health provides a once in a generation opportunity to realise our nation's mental wealth, and to finally fix our ailing mental health system. We know that investing in mental health provides substantial personal and economic benefits. We know what to do.


It's time to fix mental health.


Ursula Stephens, CEO
Catholic Social Services Australia



Rebecca Culverhouse, CEO
Accoras



Dalane Drexler, Executive Officer
ACT Mental Health Consumer Network


Dr Andrew Young, CEO
Aftercare



Associate Professor Vida Bliokas, President
Australian Clinical Psychology Assoc.


Margo Lydon, CEO
SuperFriend


Eimear Muir-Cochrane, President
Australian College of Mental Health Nurses


Annie Butler, Federal Secretary
Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation


Peter Eastwood, President
Australasian Sleep Association


Nic Brown, General Manager
batyr



Taryn Harvey, CEO
Western Australia Association for Mental Health


Scientia Professor Helen Christensen AO, Director
Black Dog Institute


Cathy Kezelman, President
Blue Knot Foundation


Professor Ian Hickie, Co-Director
Brain and Mind Centre



David Carmody, Director
Call to Mind



Sandy Paton, President
Capricorn Community Development Association


Lisa Kelly, CEO
Carers ACT


Ara Cresswell, CEO
Carers Australia


Hon John Watkins AM, Chair
Catholic Health Australia


Nicole Bartholomew, Interim CEO
Cohhealth


Bill Gye OAM, CEO
Community Mental Health Australia



John Mendoza, Director
ConNetica


Tony Lawson, Chair
Consumers Health Forum of Australia



Robert Hunt, CEO
Dietitians Assoc. of Australia


Lana Schwartz, President
Employee Assistance Professionals Association of Australasia (EAPAA)


Anita Hobson-Powell, CEO
Exercise and Sports Science Australia (ESSA)


Mohammad Al-Khafaji, CEO
Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia,



Mark Orr AM, CEO
Flourish Australia


Michael Thorn, CEO
Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE)


Arabella Gibson, CEO
Gidget Foundation Australia



David Butt, CEO
Grow



Jason Trethowan, CEO
headspace



Liz Mullinar, CEO
Heal for Life



Tom Nehmy, Director
Healthy Minds



Nicole Steers, Acting CEO
Jobs Australia


Ellie Hodges, Executive Director
Lived Experience Leadership and Advocacy Network



Jocelyn Bignold, CEO
McAuley Community Services for Women



Professor Bruce Bonyhady, Executive Chair & Director
Melbourne Disability Institute


Frank Quinlan, CEO
Mental Health Australia


Jeremy Coggin, President
Mental Health Carers Australia


Geoff Harris, Executive Director
Mental Health Coalition SA



Simon Vierende, Executive Officer
Mental Health Community Coalition ACT


Carmel Tebbutt, CEO
Mental Health Coordinating Council NSW


Connie Digolis, CEO
Mental Health Council of Tasmania



Shannon Anderson, Acting CEO
Mental Health First Aid


David Moran, Director
Mental Health Partners



Chris Gibbs, CEO
Mental Health Professionals Network



Tony Stevenson, CEO
Mental Illness Fellowship Australia



Robyn Hunter, CEO
Mind



Donella Mills, Acting Chair
National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO)


David Moody, Acting CEO
National Disability Services


Dwayne Cranfield, CEO
National Ethnic Disability Alliance


Nicky Bath, Executive Director
National LGBTI Health Alliance


Eileen McDonald, Carer Co-Chair
National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Forum


Lorraine Powell, Consumer Co-Chair
National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Forum


Tom Dalton, CEO
Neami National



Kim O'Neill, CEO
On The Line



Kathi Boorman, CEO
One Door Mental Health


Professor Pat McGorry AO, Executive Director
Orygen



Maria Brett, CEO
Psychotherapy and Counselling Federation of Australia (PACFA)


Terri Smith, CEO
Perinatal Anxiety & Depression Australia (PANDA)



Dr Yvonne Luxford, CEO
Post and Ante Natal Depression Support and Information Inc. (PANDSI)



Dr Stephen Carbone, CEO
Prevention United


Janne McMahon, Chair & Executive Director
Private Mental Health Consumer Carer Network


Terry Selvin, CEO
Public Health Association of Australia


Michelle O'Flynn, CEO
Queensland Advocacy Inc.


Katherine Newton, CEO
R U OK?



Ashley de Silva, CEO
ReachOut



Dr Harry Nespolon, President
The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP)


Associate Professor John Allan, President
Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists


Dr Martin Laverly, CEO
Royal Flying Doctor Service



Jennifer Bowers, CEO
Rural and Remote Mental Health


Pattie Chugg, CEO
Shelter TAS


Gail Mulcair, CEO
Speech Pathology Australia



Damien Ferrie, CEO
Star Health



Nieves Murray, CEO
Suicide Prevention Australia



Vivienne Miller, Executive Director
The Mental Health Services Learning Network



Simon Ruth, CEO
Thorne Harbour Health



Paul Linossier, CEO
Uniting


Elizabeth Crowther, CEO
Wellways



Rev Keith Garner AM, CEO & Superintendent
Wesley Mission


Jenny Kitchin, CEO
Woden Community Services



Tracy Adams, CEO
Yourtown


Arthur Papakotsias, CEO
Youth Focus



Sue Murray, Practice Leader
Zero Suicide


Adrienne Picone, CEO
Volunteering Australia


Elizabeth Crowther, CEO
Wellways



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Woden Community Services



Tracy Adams, CEO
Yourtown

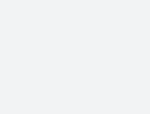
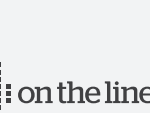
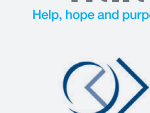
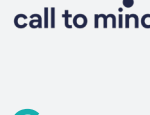
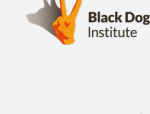

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Youth Focus


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Zero Suicide


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Arthur Papakotsias, CEO
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Sue Murray, Practice Leader
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This is our Charter 2020: Time To Fix Mental Health

STRIKE A NEW NATIONAL AGREEMENT FOR MENTAL HEALTH

An agreement that delivers integration and coordination of mental health services, including agreed objectives, indicators, monitoring arrangements and funding between all levels of government.

BUILD A MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM THAT IS TRULY PERSON LED

A system centred on what people with lived experience of mental health issues and their carers say they need, including the structures and processes required to ensure co-design of services and programs.

ADDRESS THE ROOT CAUSES OF MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

Eliminate stigma and discrimination and address the social and environmental determinants of poor mental health including housing, employment, trauma, physical health, income support, and environment.

INVEST IN EARLY INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION

Programs and supports that intervene early to prevent people from becoming mentally ill and stop emerging mental illnesses from becoming more severe.

FUND INDIGENOUS MENTAL HEALTH, WELLBEING AND SUICIDE PREVENTION ACCORDING TO NEED

Including dedicated strategic responses co-designed and co-implemented with Indigenous leaders, consumers and communities. This should be guided by the National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' Mental Health and Social and Emotional Wellbeing 2017-2023, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Strategy 2013, and the Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Declaration.

PROVIDE INTEGRATED, COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORT SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

Implement full suites of services and programs required to support mental health and ensure intensive, team based and integrated care is available for all those experiencing a mental health crisis, and addressing the needs of people who have traditionally missed out, such as culturally and linguistically diverse, LGBTIQ+ populations, and people living with intellectual disability.

EXPAND COMMUNITY BASED MENTAL HEALTH CARE