

THE TURNBULL COALITION TEAM

CCHQ 2016



15 June 2016

Mr Frank Quinlan
Chief Executive Officer
Mental Health Australia
PO Box 174
DEAKIN WEST ACT 2600

Dear Mr Quinlan

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the views of the Coalition on important issues facing your members. On behalf of the Coalition Members of Parliament and candidates I am pleased to respond to your survey.

Australia's future depends on how well we can continue to grow and shape our economy.

Only the Liberal and National Parties have an **economic plan** to do that and ensure Australia's future.

We have a clear plan to transition the economy from the mining and investment boom to a stronger and more diverse economy.

The key elements of our national economic plan for jobs and growth are:

- An Innovation and Science programme bringing Australian ideas to market. This means greater investment and more jobs and opportunities for our young people;
- A New Defence Industry plan that will secure an advanced defence manufacturing industry in Australia. This will create thousands of new hi-tech, higher paying jobs;
- Export Trade Deals that will generate more than 19,000 new export opportunities. These will create many more jobs for our urban and regional families;
- New Tax Incentives, which will include tax cuts for more small businesses. More than two million businesses can benefit, to deliver more growth and jobs; and
- A Strong New Economy with more than 200,000 jobs expected to be created.

Our national economic plan and management is already paying dividends. Last year our economy continued to grow creating almost 300,000 new jobs, many of them in small business.

We cannot put economic growth and the jobs that come with it at risk with a return to Labor and their debt and deficits, high taxing, big spending ideas.

Only a Liberal and National Party Government can protect Australia's future.

Once announced, our policies will be available at www.liberal.org.au and www.nationals.org.au.

Thank you for communicating the Coalition's commitments to your members.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tony Nutt', followed by a long horizontal line.

Tony Nutt
National Campaign Director

COALITION RESPONSE TO MENTAL HEALTH AUSTRALIA

The Turnbull Coalition is committed to ensuring ready access to mental health services when and where they are needed.

The Coalition has delivered on its 2013 election commitments, including:

- a systematic review of Commonwealth-funded mental health services by the National Mental Health Commission (NMHC);
- establishing a new National Centre of Excellence in Youth Mental Health; and
- a substantive investment in new digital technologies to underpin the delivery of online mental health services.

Mental health reforms

In November 2015, the Turnbull Coalition responded to the National Mental Health Commission's Review of Mental Health Services and Programmes. This Review found a mental health system where despite past improvements, innovations and investment, there remained significant gaps in services and variable results for people and families.

The Coalition has committed to a bold package of reforms that puts the individual needs of patients at the centre of our mental health system. This includes a focus on good mental health across the whole life span – in early childhood, schools, post-school education, workplaces and the broader community.

The Coalition is implementing these reforms over three years from 2016-17 to 2018-19. This requires significant effort, consultation and work with Primary Health Networks (PHNs) and the sector to achieve success. The Coalition understands the importance of including mental health consumers and carers in this process and in future mental health policy responses.

The reforms focus on:

- coordinated packages of care for people with severe and complex needs, and flexible support for mild and moderate needs;
- a new model of commissioning mental health services through Primary Health Networks (PHNs) that allow communities to decide on the services that best suit their needs;
- a new approach to suicide prevention, co-ordinated by PHNs;
- a new Digital Mental Health Gateway to optimise the use of digital mental health services; and
- better access to culturally sensitive mental health services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through better planning, integration and commission of services by PHNs.

Commonwealth-funded community mental health services will be delivered in a 'stepped care' approach. This means that patients will receive the appropriate level of care, matched to the level of severity of their illness.

Central to the Turnbull Government's mental health reforms is a regional approach to service planning and integration, and better matching of services to individual needs. The Government's reforms take a 'whole of system' perspective, where Commonwealth-funded services will complement rather than duplicate State and Territory mental health care services.

From July 2016, PHNs will plan and commission regionally-delivered mental health services in partnership with relevant service providers, and will play a key role in leading the development of regional mental health and suicide prevention plans.

We will also see trials of coordinated care packages begin from July 2016 at a number of sites across the country. These lead sites will be the champions of our mental health reforms and assist all 31 PHNs to match mental health services to individual needs through innovative approaches to stepped care.

Health care homes

The key reforms in mental health will be coordinated with other major significant primary care-based general health reforms, including the development of 'health care homes' to deliver coordinated care, management and support for those with complex ongoing health problems, including patients with a mental illness.

Suicide prevention

A new National Suicide Prevention Strategy will address the current fragmented approach to suicide prevention and will build on what is working well to focus on effective and planned strategies that help prevent suicide and reduce suicidal behaviour.

From July 2016, PHNs will commission community based suicide prevention activities. This will focus on integrating services at the local level including through effective post-discharge follow up, and the need to refocus efforts to prevent suicide in Indigenous communities.

New Digital Mental Health Gateway and online perinatal depression support tool

The new Digital Mental Health Gateway will be established and streamline access to existing evidence-based information, advice and digital mental health treatment. It will connect people to the services they need through a centralised telephone number and website.

In 2016-17 the Turnbull Coalition will fund \$800,000 to develop a new online perinatal depression support tool and smart phone app. This new support tool will offer convenient, self-paced and tailored practical advice, tips and support women who are affected by, or at risk of, perinatal depression. It will ensure new mothers can get help early, and will particularly assist women with poor support networks and those in rural and remote communities.

Fifth National Mental Health Plan

The Coalition has also made a joint commitment with State and Territory Governments to develop a Fifth National Mental Health Plan to promote leadership and collaboration in agreed key areas, including suicide prevention. A key focus for the Coalition is the need to ensure a broader focus for good mental health, that includes housing, social services, family support, employment and education-based initiatives at all levels of Government.

Employment

The Turnbull Coalition is focussed on creating jobs and growth, which will result in better lives for all Australians. We are committed to helping individuals with mental health issues into productive employment. In addition to its significant investment in Disability Employment Services, a re-elected Turnbull Coalition will consider opportunities to provide training and employment for individuals with a lived experience of mental ill health as a peer support workforce. This will assist the rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) as well as the broader mental health system.

For more information, please find attached a fact sheet on Australia's mental health system.