

MEDIA RELEASE

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Coalition delivers comprehensive mental health policy

The Coalition's mental health policy, announced today, is a comprehensive and well-targeted policy which will provide greater accountability, enhanced research capabilities and greater investment in measures to help people with mental health problems transition back into the workforce.

The Mental Health Council of Australia (MHCA) welcomes the Coalition's commitment of an additional \$430 million on top of the \$1.5 billion they pledged during the last election predominantly targeted at youth mental health services.

We welcome the commitment to establish a Mental Health Commission and a Mental Health Research Centre. These are both key areas of accountability and research the MHCA has been calling for.

The MHCA also supports the requirement that states and territories spend \$150 million on better coordinated accommodation for people with mental illness.

While we are yet to see the Gillard Government's long awaited promises in mental health, the MHCA believes the Coalition has shown a genuine and well-funded commitment to mental health reform and we support many of the initiatives they have outlined. It is critical that these types of promised investments, such as a Mental Health Commission, employment services and workforce training for people with mental health problems, are delivered now, not many years away.

The MHCA welcomes the commitment by the Federal Opposition to a much greater level of funding, new accountability structures and services to assist people return to work.

We look forward to seeing the Gillard Government deliver on their commitment to making mental health a second term priority.

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