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MEDIA RELEASE

Pat McGorry's legacy – Australian of the Year put mental health on the political agenda

The 2010 Australian of the Year, Professor Pat McGorry, leaves an indelible and important legacy – he has pushed mental health to the forefront of the political agenda and been a passionate and tireless advocate for reform and investment in mental health services.

The Mental Health Council of Australia (MHCA) congratulates Pat McGorry for his outstanding leadership and advocacy during his tenure as Australian of the Year.

The appointment of Professor McGorry was a significant milestone in recognising not just his outstanding work with Orygen and *headspace* youth mental health services, but in recognising the importance of improving mental health services for all Australians.

Pat McGorry has been an outspoken champion for mental health consumers and carers.

One of Pat McGorry's most important legacies is the way he has helped shape the mental health debate. His actions have brought many mental health organisations and advocates together in a shared common goal – better mental health services for all Australians.

Never before has mental health been such a prominent political and social issue, and Pat's contribution over many years, but in particular during 2010, is something we all applaud and thank him for.

The fight for greater government investment and commitment in mental health is just beginning. The Commonwealth Government must now deliver on its promise to make mental health a second term priority.

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