



ACT Government

2003-2004 BUDGET

EXTRA \$400,000 P.A. BOOSTS COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN TUGGERANONG AND WODEN

The 2003-04 ACT Budget delivers an additional \$400,000 per year recurrent funding to increase the staffing and hours of operation of community based mental health services for the residents of Tuggeranong and Woden.

“We made a commitment in our Health Action Plan that increasing resources for mental health services would be a key priority of this Government, and we have honoured that commitment in this Budget,” said Health Minister Mr Simon Corbell.

“The commitment of an extra \$400,000 in recurrent funding to provide a combined seven day per week extended hours service in Woden and Tuggeranong will promote community living for mental health consumers with high level needs, particularly those who are discharged from the in-patient units.” Mr Corbell said.

“Combined with our extra funding of \$80,000 per year for Discharge Planning from the In- Patient Psychiatric Unit at The Canberra Hospital, I believe we will make a genuine difference in keeping our mental health consumers living well in their own homes.

“The service for these south side residents will now include evening cover Monday to Friday, and all day cover over the weekend. As we all know, help can be needed at any time, not just during business hours.

“The other benefit of increasing the number of clinical staff in the teams will be an enhanced ability to focus on mental health promotion, illness prevention, and early intervention, which is the commitment we made to the community in the Health Action Plan.

“The whole emphasis for mental health services nationally, under the National Mental Health Plan, is on these three key areas. This requires properly resourced community teams who can promote wellness to the whole community, support consumers to stay well in a community setting, and to intervene early in the piece if things are starting to go wrong for a consumer.

“It is difficult to improve the outcomes for people if you don’t have the resources, so it makes me very proud that the Stanhope Government has been able to put these extra resources into the community,” Mr Corbell said.
Statement ends.



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