



## FaCSIA Mental Health

**UPDATE – June 2007**

**Issue 4**

*The Mental Health Branch was established to implement a range of new non-clinical mental health initiatives announced in the 2006-07 Federal Budget. These measures are \$45.2 million over five years for community based programs; \$284.8 million over five years for personal helpers and mentors; and \$224.7 million over five years for respite care.*

### **Respite Care**

In April 2007, Senator the Hon. Nigel Scullion announced the commencement of brokerage services through the existing Commonwealth Carer Respite and Carelink Centres (Centres). The program will provide a flexible range of respite options for carers of people with mental illness/psychiatric disability and intellectual disability to enable carers to take a short term break from their usual caring role.

Information Forums were held in May 2007 with Centre representatives from all states and territories to inform Centres about the Program, address queries and provide mental health training. FaCSIA's respite mapping exercise is also underway, utilising information provided by COAG Working Groups and Centres to map the current supply of respite services available across Australia.

A selection process for the National Respite Development component of the Program will be undertaken in early 2007-08.

### **Community Based Program**

The Community Based Program will deliver local community-based projects to assist people affected by mental illness, with a particular focus on Indigenous families and those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

#### Phase One

Two high priority projects will be delivered under Phase One of the Community Based Program:

Seven Family Mental Health Support Services sites will commence operation in late June 2007 to deliver mental health support services to families affected by mental illness.

A series of Carers Workshops will be conducted across Australia to assist family members and carers of people with a mental illness to develop coping and management skills. It is anticipated that this project will commence in late June 2007.

### Phase Two

An open, competitive application process commenced from 16 June 2007, seeking proposals from community based non-government organisation for projects to support families, carers, children and young people (16-24 yrs) affected by mental illness with a focus on Indigenous families and those from a culturally and linguistically diverse background. Projects will meet an existing mental health need and aim to build family and community resilience.

Further information on Phase One services and the Phase Two funding round are available on the FaCSIA website.

### **Personal Helpers and Mentors**

#### Round 1 (Demonstrations Sites)

The successful service providers in 28 demonstration sites are now operational. Information on the successful service providers is available on the FaCSIA website at [www.facsia.gov.au/mentalhealth](http://www.facsia.gov.au/mentalhealth).

#### Round 2

The second round was advertised on Saturday 5 May 2007 and applications closed on Friday 1 June 2007. It is expected that service providers will be delivering Round 2 of the program in the nominated sites from September 2007. The selection process was advertised fortnightly during the application period in metropolitan papers and regional papers in the nominated sites. Information about the second funding round is also available on the FaCSIA website.