



FaCSIA Mental Health Update

February – March 2007

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 programmes; \$284.8 million over five years for personal helpers and mentors; and \$224.7 million over five years for respite care.

Respite Care

The Mental Health Respite Programme is being designed to allow the delivery of a variety of flexible respite options which can be tailored and/or created to meet the individual needs of the carer, the person they are caring for and their families. To assist us with this task we are working with the COAG State and Territory Mental Health Groups to map respite services in each jurisdiction. Implementation is expected to commence as planned in April 2007.

Community Based Programmes

The Community Based Programmes team has worked with other program areas to avoid overlap and duplication, and to fine tune the guidelines and objectives. It is expected that an open, competitive grants process will be initiated in the first half of 2007 to seek proposals for projects to assist families and carers who support people with a mental illness.

Personal Helpers and Mentors

The Personal Helpers and Mentors Programme open competitive selection process commenced on Saturday 3 February 2007. FaCSIA is seeking applications from service providers in demonstration sites identified by the COAG State and Territory Mental Health Groups. The demonstration sites will be operational from May 2007. Applications close by 5pm AEDT Friday 2 March 2007. Further information including application forms and the draft Personal Helpers and Mentors Programme Guidelines are available from the FaCSIA website at www.facsia.gov.au/mentalhealth.

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