

# FACT SHEET

## Hunter New England Health Mental Health Services Plan

### Background

HNE Health has developed a suite of plans that outline the direction of health service development and delivery across the Hunter New England Health region over the next five years.

The plans include:

- A New Direction for Hunter New England – Health Service Strategic Plan towards 2010
- Area Healthcare Services Plan 2006 - 2010
- Clinical Service Plans, including:
  - Aged Care and Rehabilitation Services Plan
  - Cancer Services Plan
  - **Mental Health Services Plan**
  - Chronic Disease Services Plan

Additional clinical services plans will follow, as will plans for corporate services that support the delivery of clinical services.

### What is the Mental Health Services Plan?

HNE Health has developed a Mental Health Services Plan that outlines the direction of mental health service development and delivery across the Hunter New England Health area for the next five years.

The plan will guide the development of a cohesive, integrated area-wide approach to mental health care founded on local, state and national priorities.

The plan focuses on:

- The whole population and specific target groups for prevention activities
- Access to mental health services for children and adolescents
- Young people undergoing the transition from paediatric to adult services
- Adults accessing the range of mental

*The Mental Health Services Plan sets the direction and priorities for mental health services in the Hunter New England Health region over the next five years*

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health services provided by Hunter New England Mental Health Services

- Older people accessing mental health services across the area
- Partnerships with other community and government agencies supporting people with mental health needs

The Mental Health Plan is a living document and will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.

Some initiatives in the plan require new funding. While every effort will be made to secure the funding required, both by mental health management and by the Area Executive Team, we cannot guarantee we will be able to get all the funding needed. Without additional funding, some things identified in the plan may not be able to be achieved.

### What are the key priorities for mental health services over the next five years?

Several key priorities have been identified in the plan to ensure Hunter New England Mental Health Services are able to address the major mental health issues facing communities over the next five years.

These key priorities include:

- Improved capacity to provide evidenced based care within community mental health services and acute inpatient mental health services
- Supported Accommodation Services in rural areas, including clinical support to

# Hunter New England Health Mental Health Services Plan

- ensure ongoing care within these services
- Strategies for the recruitment and retention of staff, particularly in rural regions, including increased education and training, supervision and provision of skilled senior clinicians
- Improved service provision for specific needs groups including child and adolescent, older people and Aboriginal people
- Improved consumer and carer consultancy and advocacy initiatives.
- Provision of improved facilities, equipment and resources to meet increasing demands for services

## **What initiatives are already underway to improve mental health service delivery?**

In addition to the key priorities outlined above, there are a number of initiatives underway to enhance mental health service delivery across HNE Health.

These initiatives include:

- Relocation of acute mental health services from the James Fletcher Hospital to a new \$34-million 96-bed acute mental health facility on the Mater Hospital site
- Development of a 20-bed non-acute rehabilitation unit in Newcastle
- Implementation of clinical redesign programs in community mental health services and non-acute mental health services
- Development of a community based client record and data collection system

## **What are some of the challenges for mental health that are addressed in the plan?**

The Hunter New England Health area has diverse socio-economic groups, geographic areas and service provision structures, which provide challenges for mental health services.

Some key challenges to be addressed over the next five years include:

- Addressing the imbalance between rural and metropolitan services, particularly looking at recruitment and retention of staff and access to specialist services
- Managing increased acute admissions and the high level of acuity within hospitals and improving community services to ease the pressure on acute facilities
- Supporting strong partnerships with Aboriginal communities and services to better meet the mental health needs of Aboriginal people
- Creating better partnerships between service providers, consumers, families, carers and other agencies
- A stronger emphasis on prevention, promotion and education activities

## **How can I view the mental health services plan?**

The complete mental health services plan can be downloaded from the HNE Health internet site at:

[http://www.hnehealth.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0003/36534/HNE\\_Health\\_Mental\\_Health\\_Services\\_Plan\\_2006\\_-\\_2010.pdf](http://www.hnehealth.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/36534/HNE_Health_Mental_Health_Services_Plan_2006_-_2010.pdf)

For more information contact Director Hunter New England Mental Health on (02) 4924 6683.