

Attachment A: Jurisdictional Report for the Commonwealth

Key to Commonwealth's role in National Implementation Strategy:

Commonwealth to lead national implementation of action

Commonwealth to participate in national implementation sub-group

1. Improve community and service understanding and attitudes through a sustained and comprehensive national stigma reduction strategy.

Department of Health and Ageing

- The Australian Government funds a range of activities that have the broad aim of reducing stigma, raising community awareness of mental illness and promoting mental health literacy. Core objectives of current programs include:
 1. Promotion of mental health literacy and understanding of mental illness in the broader community including:
 - Funding to beyondblue: national depression initiative, beyondblue's key goals are to promote awareness, change community attitudes and improve services for people with depression and anxiety disorders.
 - the Commonwealth's National Suicide Prevention Strategy which aims to reduce the incidence of suicide and self harm, and to promote mental health and resilience through a range of population health activities.
 - Mental health publications /materials. Approximately 100 free publications are available to reduce stigma and raise awareness of mental illness and the rights of consumers and carers.
 - funding the Mental Health Council of Australia to enhance awareness of mental health and mental illness through World Mental Health Day activities.
 - support for consumer and carer organisations.
 2. Raising awareness of mental health and the importance of help seeking among school aged children including:
 - Mindmatters- aims to build positive school environments , includes mental health promotion, prevention and early intervention
 - KidsMatter primary-framework for primary schools which promotes collaboration between health and education sectors
 - KidsMatter Early Childhood-an initiative for children from birth to school age being piloted in preschools and long day care centres
 - headspace – youth friendly, community based service for people between 12-25 and their families
 3. Promoting better understanding by the media of mental illness and suicide and hence more responsible and accurate reporting;
 - Mindframe Media Initiative; and
 - SANE Australia Stigma Watch – a web-based StigmaWatch program to promote accurate, respectful and sensitive depiction of mental illness.
 4. Targeting awareness raising of mental health issues and reducing stigma among key frontline professionals including teachers, journalists, child care workers, and family court workers including
 - Response Ability Teacher Education
 - Mental Health First Aid Training conducted through the Australian Rotary Health
 - National Eating Disorders Collaboration
 - *Better Access Initiative – allows psychiatrists, paediatricians and GP's to refer patients for intensive short term subsidised mental health services.*
 5. Providing a complaints avenue for the reporting of poor media coverage e.g. SANE Media Watch as above.

- Funding is provided to the Mental Health Council of Australia for national secretariat activities through the Community Sector Support Scheme which covers raising public awareness and acceptance of mental illness through publications, submissions, media releases and policy forums.
- The Department of Health and Ageing is leading the 4th National Mental Health Plan Implementation Stigma Subgroup, a cross-jurisdictional group to focus on taking forward the priority area of stigma reduction.

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

- Targeted Community Care (mental health) Program: comprises three initiatives funded under the COAG National Action Plan on Mental Health 2006-2011: Personal Helpers and Mentors; Mental Health Respite and Community Based Services

Service providers funded through the Targeted Community Care (TCC) initiative are required to have mental health training that improves their understanding of mental health and helps them reduce the barriers to seeking help for people with mental illness.

Broad objectives of TCC are to increase:

- community awareness and understanding of mental health issues and the impact of mental illness on families,
- community participation and
- awareness and understanding of mental health issues in the community.

Initial findings from the TCC Evaluation indicate that the three community-based mental health services are being well received within the community. They are achieving their objectives for people with mental illness, their families and carers and the community more broadly.

- United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - On 17 July 2008, Australia became one of the first western nations to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the Convention). While not creating any new rights, all tiers of Australian government now have an obligation to act in accordance with the rights provided for in the Convention. The Convention aims to enhance opportunities for people with disability to participate in all aspects of social and political life including access to employment, education, health care, information, justice, public transport and the built environment.
 - Under the Convention, Australia is obliged to combat stereotypes and prejudices and to promote awareness of the capabilities of persons with disabilities (Article 8). Article 33(1) requires the designation of *a joint focal point in government and a national mechanism to promote and monitor the implementation of the Convention*. On 15 September 2009 FaHCSIA and the Attorney-General's Department were formally designated as a joint focal point within government for matters relating to the implementation of the Convention.
 - *National Disability Strategy - The Australian Government is developing a National Disability Strategy (NDS) which will provide direction and focus at a national level for the development of disability legislation, policy and standards which deliver a whole-of-government, whole-of-life approach to disability planning. The Convention has a significant focus on implementation and monitoring and the Government has been considering how to appropriately enhance implementation through both formal and informal mechanisms, including the NDS.*
- The NDS will be an important mechanism to ensure that the principles underpinning the Convention are incorporated into policies and programs affecting people with disability, their families and carers.
- National Secretariat Program - FaHCSIA provides funding to 12 national disability peak organisations to provide 'grass roots' policy advice to the Australian Government and other agencies on national issues affecting people with disability and their families.

Department of Veterans' Affairs

- The Men's Health Peer Education Program continues to assist in promoting healthy lifestyle choices within the veteran community and encourages members of the veteran community to share responsibility for managing their own health and wellbeing. The program continually develops new and improved ways to raise awareness of men's health issues.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The At Ease Recognise-Act-Maintain website provides mental health promotion resources that supports and encourages veterans and their families to recognise take action, and assume more responsibility for their own mental health and wellbeing. <p>Department of Defence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As a key prevention strategy, the Australian Defence Force (ADF) is establishing a comprehensive resilience training program called BattleSMART (Self Management and Resilience Training). - Defence support the expansion of mental health literacy training initiatives that will increase the general understanding of the impact and appropriate management of mental health conditions. Currently there are innovative and interactive mental health literacy programs across Defence in the areas of suicide prevention and alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. - Defence and Department of Veterans' Affairs are embarking on the largest, most comprehensive health study of ADF serving and ex-serving members. This Military Health Outcomes Program (MilHOP) will support Defence and DVA efforts to achieve better long-term health outcomes for Defence personnel through improved health services and policies. <p>The mental health component of the program specifically targets stigma reduction.</p>
<p>2. Coordinate the health, education and employment sectors to expand supported education, employment and vocational programs which are linked to mental health programs.</p>	<p>Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Australian Disability Enterprises are commercial businesses that provide employment for people with disability. Australian Disability Enterprises provide employment for people with disability and operate as a commercial business. <p>There are approximately 329 Australian Disability Enterprise outlets across Australia, providing supported employment assistance to more than 20,000 people with moderate to severe disability who need substantial ongoing support to maintain their employment.</p> <p>Australian Disability Enterprises enable people with disability to engage in a wide variety of work tasks such as graphic design, printing, metal fabrication, packaging, timber and furniture manufacture, production, recycling, screen printing, horticulture, garden maintenance and landscaping, hospitality, cleaning services, laundry services and food services. Employees of Australian Disability Enterprises enjoy the same working conditions as those in the general workforce.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Personal Helpers and Mentors (PHaMs) and Mental Health Respite (MHR) initiatives link individuals, families and carers with appropriate support mechanisms, including employment, education and housing. <p>Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New Disability Employment Services will be introduced from 1 March 2010. The new services will provide flexible, tailored assistance for eligible job seekers with disability, including mental illness. There will be two demand driven employment services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Program A will provide services to job seekers who require the assistance of a specialist disability employment service but are not expected to need long term support in the workplace; and o Program B will be available to job seekers with a permanent disability and an assessed need for more regular, long term support in the workplace. <p>Assistance will be available through Job in Jeopardy services to people with disability already working but whose jobs are at risk because of their injury, disability or health condition. Job in Jeopardy services will be available from both Program A and Program B providers.</p> <p>Job in Jeopardy assistance is aimed at people who need help to retain their current employment. People can access Job in Jeopardy assistance by directly approaching a disability employment service provider and requesting help.</p> <p>A new Employment Assistance Fund (EAF) has been created to remove red tape and simplify access, and to broaden the range of support</p>

available. Under the EAF, funding will be available to employers, employment service providers and individuals for workplace modifications, including Mental Health First Aid Training.

- Job Services Australia is a network of generalist and specialist employment service providers contracted by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. Job Services Australia provides a single entry point to a range of employment services for job seekers, including those with disability or a mental health condition. This includes the development of an individual Employment Pathway Plan, tailored to a job seeker's individual needs, including job search, training and work experience.
- Employer engagement: The Australian Government is undertaking measures to encourage employers to recruit and retain people with mental illness. These measures include the JobAccess service, Employment Assistance Fund and research into mental health and employment.
- \$6.8 million was provided in the 2009-10 Budget for a Disability Support Pension Employment Incentive Pilot. The Disability Support Pension Employment Incentive Pilot will provide 1000 DSP recipients with opportunities for sustainable jobs of at least 8 hours a week for at least 26 weeks.
- The Family-centred Employment Project (FCEP) has been designed to assist jobless families move into education and work. The FCEP will focus on the family as a whole and test a different approach to service delivery which addresses the educational needs of jobless families, supports their capacity for employment and their social inclusion.
- The Innovation Fund is a competitive grants program designed to address the needs of the most disadvantaged job seekers through funding projects that will foster innovative solutions to overcome barriers to employment which these job seekers face.

The objective of the Innovation Fund is to fund innovative place-based solutions to address barriers to employment for groups of the most disadvantaged job seekers. These groups include, but are not limited to, people in areas with entrenched disadvantage, the homeless and those at risk of homelessness, people with mental health conditions, Indigenous Australians, and job seekers in jobless families.

- At its 30 April 2009 meeting, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to a Compact with Young Australians to increase young people's engagement with education and training pathways.

The Compact with Young Australians is part of the National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions that will also drive longer term reform to ensure that young people stay engaged in education and training and attain a year 12 or equivalent qualification.

The National Partnership includes the implementation of a National Youth Participation Requirement which will be in place in all jurisdictions from 1 January 2010. This includes a mandatory requirement for all young people to participate in schooling until they complete Year 10 and participate full-time in education, training or employment, or a combination of these activities, until the age of 17.

The Youth Connections program will be delivered under the National Partnership. It builds on the success of some of the existing programs and streamlines support for young people.

Youth Connections will provide an improved safety net for young people who have disconnected from education or their community, or are at risk of disengaging. It will be flexible, offering a combination of case-managed support as well as linkages with wider community activities to help young people to re-connect with education or training and build resilience, skills and attributes that promote positive choices and wellbeing. Youth Connections will address barriers to transitioning through education and training to employment, including mental health issues and other personal barriers.

- The National Disability Coordination Officer (NDCO) program—which is a network of 31 officers across Australia—helps people with disability, including mental illness, make the transition from school and further education to employment. The program targets barriers that make it difficult for people with disability to enter and complete post-school education and training and then obtain employment.

	<p>NDCOs helps to build linkages between a range of school, post-school, employment and community organisations including Disability Employment Service providers, registered and group training organisations and Australian Apprenticeship Centres to improve training and employment for people with disability.</p> <p>Human Services Portfolio</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CRS Australia currently coordinates health, education and employment strategies for people with mental illness as part of its delivery of Disability Employment Services for DEEWR.
<p>3. Improve coordination between primary care and specialist mental health services in the community to enhance consumer choice and facilitate 'wrap-around' service provision.</p>	<p>Department of Health and Ageing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Access to Allied Psychological Services initiative (ATAPS) facilitates links between primary and specialist mental health care. <p>ATAPS is an Australian Government mental health initiative which funds the provision of short term psychology services for people with mental disorders through fundholding arrangements administered by Divisions of General Practice. Divisions are able to adopt a model that best suits their local arrangements.</p> <p>ATAPS enables GPs to refer consumers with high prevalence mental health disorders to allied health professionals for six sessions of evidence based mental health care. An option for a further six sessions exists (and up to an additional six sessions in exceptional circumstances), pending a mental health review by the referring GP.</p> <p>While any consumer with a mental disorder would generally be eligible for ATAPS, it is intended to target services to those individuals requiring primary mental health care who are not likely to be able to have their needs met through Medicare based mental health services (Better Access).</p> <p>The Department encourages a high level of communication between referring and treating providers. A team based approach to care involving the GP in care coordination is often crucial to effective whole-of-person care.</p> <p>The Department recognises the need for close linkages between GPs, allied health professionals and specialist mental health services in the community and is encouraging further development of linkages. This will become more important when the new Flexible Care Packages for people with severe mental illnesses become operational under ATAPS late in the 2010-11 financial year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Better Access initiative <p>The Better Access to Psychiatrists, Psychologists and General Practitioners through the Medicare Benefits Schedule (Better Access) initiative includes a range of Medicare rebateable services for eligible people with a diagnosed mental disorder, including psychological strategies provided by GPs, psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, registered psychologists and other suitably qualified mental health providers.</p> <p>Psychiatrists, paediatricians and general practitioners can refer patients for intensive, short-term Medicare subsidised mental health services.</p> <p>Medicare rebates are available for eligible people for up to 12 individual and/or up to 12 group allied mental health services per calendar year. In exceptional circumstances an additional six individual services may be accessed.</p> <p>Mental health services that can be provided under the Better Access initiative include Psychological Therapy services provided by Medicare-eligible clinical psychologists, and Focused Psychological Strategies services provided by registered psychologists, and other suitably qualified mental health providers..</p> <p>The Better Access initiative encourages a collaborative approach to the provision of mental health services, with the GP responsible for developing a Mental Health Treatment Plan for their patient and referring them for psychological services. The GP retains the responsibility for the care and treatment of the patient and receives a report back from the allied mental health professional which includes an outline of the treatment provided; patient outcomes and recommendations on future management of the patient's disorder. This report allows the GP to</p>

review the patient and assess their progress and any further treatment needs.

– Rural & Remote

The Mental Health Services in Rural and Remote Areas (MHSRRA) Program provides funding for mental health professionals in communities that would otherwise have little or no access to mental health services. Organisations such as Divisions of General Practice, Aboriginal Medical Services and the Royal Flying Doctor Service are funded to deliver mental health services by appropriately trained mental health care workers, including psychologists, social workers, occupational therapists, mental health nurses, Aboriginal health workers and Aboriginal mental health workers. The GP has an active role in the care and management of the patients needs including referral of patients for services under the Program and liaison with the mental health professionals in implementing a suitable treatment plan.

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

– Targeted Community Care (mental health) Program assists people with mental illness, their carers and families to find appropriate support and facilitate access where necessary.

- o Personal Helpers and Mentors – one on one supports for people who cannot manage their daily activities or live independently because they have a severe mental illness. The PHaMs mainstream service model was adapted to recognise and promote spiritual, cultural, mental and physical healing for Indigenous Australians living with mental illness in remote communities. This Remote Service Model had the age restriction removed to allow younger people, especially those engaging in risk of taking behaviours to access the program.
- o Mental Health Respite – respite, education and support for carers of people with severe mental illness; and
- o Mental Health Community Based Services - supports families, young people (aged between 16 and 24 years) and carers affected by mental illness.

– National Disability Agreement - As part of the National Disability Agreement, a National Framework for Service Planning and Access will be developed, focussing on providing a person centred approach to service delivery and to simplify access to specialist disability services.

– National Compact: Working Together - One of the actions identified in the National Compact Commonwealth Action Plan is to:

- o act to improve opportunities for the Commonwealth Government and Third Sector Agencies to work together to better coordinate service delivery, particularly for marginalised and disadvantaged people (linked to the following National Compact priority action areas: 3: Recognise Sector diversity; 5: Reduce red tape; 7: Act on workforce issues; and, 8: Improve funding/procurement processes).

The lead/reporting agencies identified for this action are FaHCSIA and the Department of Human Services with National Compact Across Government Working Group members to report their agency's ongoing achievements against this action. The expected outcome of this action is: Better coordinated service delivery, particularly for marginalised and disadvantaged people.

Progress to date includes: In the week beginning 26 April 2010 - Community Links Projects are being coordinated by the Dept of Human Services. This is the beginning of the "roll out" of new arrangements to bring "wrap around services" models to 4 Centrelink offices and involving the participation of Community service organisations as partners.

Human Services Portfolio

– Centrelink social workers provide crisis intervention in addition to counselling, support and referral services

Department of Veterans' Affairs

– The VVCS – Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service provides counselling support to all Australian veterans, peacekeepers, their family members and eligible Australian Defence Force personnel. This service is free, confidential and provided by professionally qualified psychologists and social workers. VVCS has 15 centres across Australia and operates an after-hours counselling support and crisis assistance telephone service, Veterans Line.

– VVCS has approximately 550 contracted providers who are qualified psychologists or social workers located in outer metropolitan and regional areas around Australia. Of these providers, 509 delivered 31,366 counselling sessions to 5,465 clients who were not able to access a VVCS

	<p>centre.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - VVCS is conducting a 12-month pilot using videoconferencing technology to provide counselling to veterans and their families who live in regions where access to a local mental health service is problematic or non-existent. This is aimed at improving access to community mental health services. <p>Department of Defence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The ADF and VVCS have an agreement for services to provide counselling support services to current serving personnel across all regions. - The mental health workforce will be enhanced by the full integration of health professionals, including social workers into the regional garrison health care delivery areas. This will allow the formation of multi-disciplinary teams in order to deliver evidence based care. There will also be further enhancement of the interaction with the Defence Community Organisation.
<p>4. Adopt a recovery oriented culture within mental health services, underpinned by appropriate values and service models.</p>	<p>Department of Health and Ageing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funding is being provided to implement the National Standards for Mental Health Services. The Standards include a Recovery Standard and a set of national principles for Recovery Oriented Practice. <p>Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Targeted Community Care (mental health) Program contributes to a recovery culture and adapts services to meet the needs of individual clients through innovative service delivery models. <p>Department of Defence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As mental health issues may not surface for some period after separation from the ADF a robust program that encourages contact with Defence and veteran organisations may serve to assist the better management and early detection of emerging mental health problems. - Defence and DVA are currently exploring the issue of Keeping in Touch following discharge.
<p>5. Develop integrated programs between mental health support services and housing agencies to provide tailored assistance to people with mental illness and mental health problems living in the community.</p>	<p>Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Personal Helpers and Mentors (PHaMs) - Where housing is an issue PHaMs works one on one with individuals with mental illness to help them obtain and maintain suitable housing. Just over 10.5 per cent of PHaMs clients were homeless or at risk of homelessness as at 31 January 2010. PHaMs Round Four Funding is targeted at vulnerable groups which include the homeless. Selected sites include known concentrations of people experiencing homelessness across all states and territories. - Support services for people who are homeless (including people with mental health issues) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o All States and Territories are delivering the following support under the <i>National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Street to Home program which assists people living on the street to move into accommodation with support services. • Support for private and public tenants to help sustain their tenancies, including through tenancy support, advocacy, case management, financial counseling and referral services. • Assistance for people leaving child protection services, correctional and health facilities, to access and maintain stable, affordable housing. Reconnect program which uses community-based early intervention services to assist young people aged 12 to 18 years who are homeless. <p>Some examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new assertive outreach model is being implemented in Qld (Brisbane, Townsville, Cairns and Gold Coast) to bring people off the streets into housing. Similarly an assertive outreach program is being delivered in WA (Inner city-Perth and Fremantle) which includes wrap around support services for rough sleepers.

- In SA a statewide early intervention Intensive Tenancy Support Program is assisting tenants to avoid tenancy disruption and eviction from public and private accommodation.
 - A new statewide project in Vic is assisting young people leaving care to ensure a successful transition to sustainable accommodation and independence.
 - Up to eight houses are being provided in Sydney metropolitan and northern NSW to house women leaving detention who may have one or more children. Indigenous women are considered a priority group.
- o People with mental health issues may also benefit from the following assistance, which is being provided by some jurisdictions under the *National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness*:
- Support to assist homeless people with mental health issues to secure or maintain stable accommodation. Examples include:
 - In NSW and ACT – the Housing and Accommodation Support Initiative is providing accommodation and tenancy support, clinical care and rehabilitation and personal support to people with mental health issues.
 - In QLD - services for young people (15-25 years) showing early signs and symptoms of mental health problems will be established. The service will offer short term, intensive and focused support for young people experiencing mental health issues for up to three weeks.
 - Services to assist homeless people with substance abuse to secure or maintain stable accommodation. An example is:
 - In WA – provision of 10 Alcohol and Drug Housing Support Workers to integrate homeless services with mainstream services to provide intensive support for homeless people with substance issues to secure or maintain stable accommodation.
 - Support for women and children experiencing domestic and family violence to stay in their present housing where it is safe to do so.
- o The Household Organisation Management Expenses (HOME) Advice Program provides early intervention to assist families at risk of homelessness to manage their finances and household expenses in order to prevent future accommodation crises. The HOME Advice Program funds one community organisation and one Centrelink social worker in each state and territory. Centrelink social workers provide clients with detailed advice on Centrelink services, while community organisations provide specialised assistance around a range of issues.
- Affordable housing supply
- o A large part of the solution for people who are homeless, which includes people with mental health problems, is to provide more affordable social housing. The Australian Government is working in partnership with States and Territories to increase the supply of affordable housing by more than 80,000 dwellings – 50,000 affordable rental homes and 30,000 social housing dwellings.
 - o The Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan, National Partnership Agreement on Social Housing, A Place to Call Home (APTCH) and National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS), are providing targeted accommodation and support services for people who are homeless. These include:
 - 8 Common Ground developments
 - Provide affordable rental housing, and parallel personal support, to low income people and those experiencing, and at risk of, homelessness.
 - 3 Foyer type models
 - Provide young people safe housing while they participate in education and work.
 - 750 APTCH, including 361 long term homes for families
 - People at immediate risk of homelessness move directly into permanent housing and receive tenancy and support services for the first 12 months to help them address the issues that led to homelessness and reintegrate with the broader community.
 - 3 developments for aged people who are homeless, including Wintringham in Victoria.
 - Long term housing and support for older people who have been chronically homeless.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accommodation for young people aged from 11 years who are unable to live at home, eg Reunification House in SA • Housing for Domestic Violence perpetrators, transitional accommodation for Aboriginal people in SA and NT, and accommodation for women and children escaping domestic violence. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing the Commonwealth is providing \$5.4 billion over 10 years to reform responsibilities between the Australian Government, the states and the Northern Territory in the provision of housing for Indigenous people. o The Australian Government's \$512 million Housing Affordability Fund is lowering the cost of new homes by reducing planning delays and lowering infrastructure changes on new developments. o The Australian Government's National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS) is stimulating the supply of new affordable rental dwellings by up to 50 000. Under NRAS successful applicants will be eligible to receive a National Rental Incentive for each approved dwelling, on the condition that they are rented to eligible low and moderate income households at 20 per cent below market rates. <p>Department of Veterans' Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – VVCS – Veterans and Veterans Counselling Service implemented a mental health case management service in 2008–09, to provide support for members of the veteran community with complex needs affecting their mental health and wellbeing. <p>Human Services Portfolio</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Centrelink Community Engagement Officers (CCEOs) provide Centrelink services on an outreach basis to individuals and families as well as to relevant agencies such as emergency accommodation services
<p>6. Develop integrated approaches between housing, justice, community and aged care sectors to facilitate access to mental health programs for people at risk of homelessness and other forms of disadvantage.</p>	<p>Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Some of the projects being delivered under the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (cf action 5) facilitate access to mental health programs for people at risk of homelessness. – The Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments are working together to progress the homelessness reform agenda, which includes better integration of mainstream services with specialist homelessness services. – The States and Territories are delivering several multi-disciplinary initiatives under the <i>National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness</i> which will benefit people with mental health issues. – Reconnect is a community based early intervention program for young people aged 12 to 18 years, who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and their families. Reconnect services provide counselling, group work, mediation and practical support to the whole family, to help break the cycle of homelessness. Reconnect providers also 'buy in' other services to meet the individual needs of clients, such as specialised mental health services. There are currently 107 Reconnect services located in metropolitan, regional, rural and remote communities around Australia. – FaHCSIA also funds Reconnect specialist services including Indigenous and Newly Arrived Youth Specialists. The Reconnect – Newly Arrived Youth Specialist providers target newly arrived young people aged 12 to 21 years who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and their families. – Personal Helpers and Mentors – provides one on one supports for people who cannot manage their daily activities or live independently because they have a severe mental illness, including connecting people to appropriate services and helping them navigate justice (where appropriate) and service systems. – National Disability Agreement - Early intervention and prevention is one area identified as a priority under the National Disability Agreement. An Early Intervention and Prevention Framework will be developed to increase Governments' ability to be effective with early intervention and prevention strategies and to ensure that clients receive the most appropriate and timely support by mid 2011.

<p>7. Lead the development of coordinated actions to implement a renewed Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander Social and Emotional Well Being Framework.</p>	<p>Department of Health and Ageing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Social and Emotional Wellbeing Framework 2004-2009 was designed to complement the National Mental Health Plan and the National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (NSFATSIH 2003-2013). The Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC) endorsed the Framework in 2004. The Framework expired in December 2009. - It will be important, in considering next steps, to take into account the significantly changed policy environment since the Framework was released in 2004 and to work within the policy context set by Close the Gap. OATSIH will lead this work. <p>Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cultural sensitivity is embedded in the principles of the Targeted Community Care (mental health) Program support services. The PHaMs mainstream model has been specifically adapted as a Remote Service Model to promote the spiritual, cultural, mental and physical healing for Indigenous Australians living with mental illness. The model has broader eligibility criteria to allow people younger than 16 years of age to access the service in order to address youth risk taking behaviours and high suicide rates in these communities. - FaHCSIA has established the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation and the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples - National Secretariat Program - The Department provides funding to the First Peoples Disability Network (formerly known as the Aboriginal Disability Network) to establish itself as the peak disability organisation representing the views and interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with Disability. <p>Department of Veterans' Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DVA delivered cultural awareness training across Australia for departmental client service centre staff to enhance skills and capabilities when working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.
<p>8. Work with schools, workplaces and communities to deliver programs to improve mental health literacy and enhance resilience.</p>	<p>Department of Health and Ageing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Department funds a range of prevention and promotion activities, as well as support for consumer and carer organisations, specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o MindMatters - the Australian Government's framework for improving mental health outcomes of secondary schools using a range of resources to increase the capacity of schools for mental health promotion and early intervention (also funded under the National Suicide Prevention Program); o Publications and materials to reduce stigma and raise awareness of mental illness and the rights of consumers and carers; and o The Children of Parents with a Mental Illness (COPMI) project which aims to promote better mental health outcomes for children of parents with a mental health problem or disorder. It aims to increase the availability of information on how to enhance children's resilience, reducing risk factors and resources to assist children, workers and families in relation to parental mental illness (also funded under the New Early Intervention Services initiative). - The New Early Intervention Services for Parents, Children and Young People (NEIS) initiative provides a framework for mental health promotion, prevention and early intervention for children from birth to 12 years and funds activities including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o KidsMatter Primary initiative which aims to improve the mental health and wellbeing of primary school students, reduce mental health problems among students, and achieve greater support and assistance for students showing signs of mental health problems. It is being extended to a further 300 schools following its pilot project in 101 schools; o KidsMatter Early Childhood initiative which aims to expand the KidsMatter concept into early childhood settings and enable preschools and long day care centres to implement evidence based mental health promotion, prevention and early intervention strategies that will improve the social and emotional health and wellbeing of children from birth to school age, reduce mental health problems, and achieve greater support and assistance for children showing signs of mental health problems. The initiative is being in at least 110 preschools and long day

- care centres across Australia over the 2010 and 2011 calendar years;
 - o KidsMatter Transition to School: Parent Initiative which is an evidence-based approach to parenting guidance and support at the time of transition from preschool to primary school that will become an integrated part of the Parenting Support and Education component of the KidsMatter Primary School initiative;
 - o Strengthening early intervention pathways and ensuring the best available guidance and support is available on the management of significant mental health disorders such as eating disorders and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder; and
 - o Early childhood initiatives for indigenous parents and children which expand the KidsMatter framework to develop culturally appropriate information and resources aimed at the indigenous early childhood sector and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and parents.
- The National Youth Mental Health Initiative, which includes funding to headspace to provide a national, coordinated focus on youth mental health and related drug and alcohol problems in Australia and will improve access for young people with mental health problems to appropriate services and ensure better coordination between services.
- The Department funds a range of prevention and promotion activities, as well as support for consumer and carer organisations, specifically:
 - o Publications and materials to reduce stigma and raise awareness of mental illness and the rights of consumers and carers; and
 - o Children of Parents with a Mental Illness (COPMI) which aims to increase the availability of information on how to enhance children's resilience, reducing risk factors and resources to assist children and families in relation to parental mental illness.
- The National Suicide Prevention Program funds the following activities:
 - o The Peer Support Foundation - peer led programs which are integrated into curricula and implemented in primary and secondary schools (Kindergarten to Year 12). The program supports positive cultural change within schools by incorporating a range of strategies developed through collaboration with members of the whole community for specific needs of the school;
 - o Youth adaptation Mental Health First Aid - ORYGEN Research Centre;
 - o OzHelp Foundation - workplace based suicide prevention activities working with apprentices in male dominated industries in Tas, WA and ACT; and
 - o IncoLink - suicide prevention activities working with apprentices in the building and construction industry in Victoria.
- Beyondblue is funded with a key goal of raising community awareness about depression, anxiety and related disorders and reducing stigma associated with the illness through five priority areas for action (1) community awareness (2) consumer and carer participation (3) prevention and early intervention(4) primary care and (5) targeted research.
- Funding is provided to the Mental Health Council of Australia for the Stronger Consumer and Carer Representation Project in support of the National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Forum (NMHCCF) and the National Register of Mental Health Consumer and Carer Representatives. This includes consumer and carer advocacy through the NMHCCF to improve community mental health literacy.
- The National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre (NCPIC) aims to reduce the use of cannabis in Australia. In conjunction with Orygen Youth Health Centre, it has developed the MAKINGtheLINK program which is an early intervention program that can be offered through schools. The program which aims to improve young people's ability to approach and assist peers with emerging substance use and mental health issues and seek professional help.
- NCPIC has also developed in conjunction with Orygen Youth Health Centre, Cannabis Mental Health First Aid Guidelines to inform members of the community how to recognise when someone's cannabis use has become a problem (including the experience of mental health problems), how to provide initial support and information, and how to guide the person to seek appropriate professional help.

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

- Improvement of mental health literacy is embedded in the principles of the Targeted Community Care (mental health) Program.

- National Disability Agreement - Early intervention and prevention is one area identified as a priority under the National Disability Agreement. An Early Intervention and Prevention Framework will be developed to increase Governments' ability to be effective with early intervention and prevention strategies and to ensure that clients receive the most appropriate and timely support by mid 2011.
- Community Investment Program - aims to improve the responsiveness and integration of local community services to increase participation of vulnerable people in community life. This initiative funds a wide range of projects that promote social connectedness and civic engagement (protective factors known to impact on mental health and well being), intervene early to avoid family crisis, establish positive goals that help avert destructive influences and encourage and assist individuals to achieve their full potential. Projects are listed by state and territory at http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/communities/progserv/community_investment/Pages/default.aspx
- Volunteer Grants - this initiative is part of the Australian Government's ongoing commitment to supporting volunteering, and building social inclusion and community participation in Australian communities. Details are available at http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/volunteers/funding/Pages/volunteer_grants2010.aspx

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

- At its 30 April 2009 meeting, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to a Compact with Young Australians to increase young people's engagement with education and training pathways.

The Compact with Young Australians is part of the National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions that will also drive longer term reform to ensure that young people stay engaged in education and training and attain a year 12 or equivalent qualification.

The National Partnership includes the implementation of a National Youth

Participation Requirement which will be in place in all jurisdictions from 1 January 2010. This includes a mandatory requirement for all young people to participate in schooling until they complete Year 10 and participate full-time in education, training or employment, or a combination of these activities, until the age of 17.

The Youth Connections program will be delivered under the National Partnership. It builds on the success of some of the existing programs and streamlines support for young people.

Youth Connections will provide an improved safety net for young people who have disconnected from education or their community, or are at risk of disengaging. It will be flexible, offering a combination of case-managed support as well as linkages with wider community activities to help young people to re-connect with education or training and build resilience, skills and attributes that promote positive choices and wellbeing. Youth Connections will address barriers to transitioning through education and training to employment, including mental health issues and other personal barriers.

- The National Disability Coordination Officer (NDCO) program—which is a network of 31 officers across Australia—helps people with disability, including mental illness, make the transition from school and further education to employment. The program targets barriers that make it difficult for people with disability to enter and complete post-school education and training and then obtain employment.

The program has three objectives:

- o improved transitions for people with disability between school and/or the community, vocational education and training (VET), higher education and employment
- o improved participation by people with disability in higher education and VET leading to employment
- o improved linkages between schools, higher education and VET providers and providers of disability programs and assistance.

NDCOs helps to build linkages between a range of school, post-school, employment and community organisations including Disability Employment Service providers, registered and group training organisations and Australian Apprenticeship Centres to improve training and

employment for people with disability.

For example, the NDCO based in Hobart recently collaborated with the Mental Health Council of Tasmania to facilitate an inaugural networking meeting (MH Intouch) for those interested in education and employment issues for persons with mental illness in Tasmania. The meeting included a presentation on a model to assist people with mental illness in employment networks. The meeting was attended by State Government Mental Health Services, representatives from the University, TAFE, Disability Employment Networks, Vocational Rehabilitation Services providers, an Australian Disability Enterprise organisation, private psychologists, group training organisations and consumers. Due to the level of interest, it is planned that the NDCO will continue to collaborate with the Mental Health Council of Tasmania to facilitate future meetings.

- New Disability Employment Services will be introduced from 1 March 2010. The new services will provide flexible, tailored assistance for eligible job seekers with disability, including mental illness. There will be two demand driven employment services:
 - o Program A will provide services to job seekers who require the assistance of a specialist disability employment service but are not expected to need long term support in the workplace; and
 - o Program B will be available to job seekers with a permanent disability and an assessed need for more regular, long term support in the workplace.

Key features of the new services include: a simplified fee structure which targets resources at those most in need; simpler eligibility criteria, with less complex assessment and referral processes; a reduction in red tape; and access to ongoing support in the workplace, including a flexible ongoing support option to assist job seekers who might have irregular support needs. The new services have a greater emphasis on education, skills acquisition and training and increased resources for job seekers in remote areas.

Assistance will be available through Job in Jeopardy services to people with disability already working but whose jobs are at risk because of their injury, disability or health condition. Job in Jeopardy services will be available from both Program A and Program B providers.

Job in Jeopardy assistance is aimed at people who need help to retain their current employment. People can access Job in Jeopardy assistance by directly approaching a disability employment service provider and requesting help.

A new Employment Assistance Fund (EAF) has been created to remove red tape and simplify access, and to broaden the range of support available. Under the EAF, funding will be available to employers, employment service providers and individuals for workplace modifications, including Mental Health First Aid Training.

The new disability employment services also include new flexible options for ongoing support in the workplace. Flexible ongoing support will provide a safety net for participants who have been placed into work, but whose support needs are likely to be irregular or less predictable. This support option enables providers to offer flexible assistance, including short bursts of intensive assistance in the workplace.

The Government has invested \$1.2 billion in the new services.

Human Services Portfolio

- The Child Support program works with service providers across a range of disciplines including health, mental health, relationship services, legal and financial to better support the needs of separated and separating families. The Child Support Program administers the Staying Connected program which aims to take support to separated parents (primarily fathers) in the workplace. Staying Connected is being run by Incolink and OzHelp foundation in the building and construction industries in regional areas.

Department of Veterans' Affairs

- DVA in partnership with Australian General Practice Network and the National Youth Mental Health Foundation has aligned the 'Can Do for young people' initiative to address mental health and drug and alcohol issues experience by young people. The *Headspace* youth services delivers three unit training sessions, inclusive of veteran case scenarios, across various Divisions of General Practice focussing on increased support to

	<p>younger veterans, as well as the children of veterans.</p> <p>Department of Defence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Families and communities play a crucial role in the overall health and wellbeing of ADF personnel and, wherever possible, Defence will ensure that families are engaged and have the opportunity to be involved in mental health support programs. - The commitment to the importance of families will be demonstrated by the increased engagement of families across a member's service career including initial employment, periods of deployment and transition processes. Additionally Defence will support further development of a family friendly culture, specifically in relation to mental health and wellbeing, within Defence
<p>9. Implement targeted prevention and early intervention programs for children and their families through partnerships between mental health, maternal and child health services, schools and other related organisations.</p>	<p>Department of Health and Ageing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>beyondblue's</i> key goals are to promote awareness, change community attitudes and improve services for people with depression and anxiety disorders. - The Department funds a range of prevention and promotion activities, as well as support for consumer and carer organisations, specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o MindMatters - the Australian Government's framework for improving mental health outcomes of secondary schools using a range of resources to increase the capacity of schools for mental health promotion and early intervention (also funded under the National Suicide Prevention Program); o Publications and materials to reduce stigma and raise awareness of mental illness and the rights of consumers and carers; and o The Children of Parents with a Mental Illness (COPMI) project which aims to promote better mental health outcomes for children of parents with a mental health problem or disorder. It aims to increase the availability of information on how to enhance children's resilience, reducing risk factors and resources to assist children, workers and families in relation to parental mental illness (also funded under the NEIS initiative). o The National Youth Mental Health Initiative, which includes funding to headspace to provide a national, coordinated focus on youth mental health and related drug and alcohol problems in Australia and will improve access for young people with mental health problems to appropriate services and ensure better coordination between services. - National Perinatal Depression Initiative aims to improve the prevention and early detection of antenatal and postnatal depression, and to provide better care, support and treatment for expectant and new mothers experiencing perinatal depression. - The Department funds a range of prevention and promotion activities, as well as support for consumer and carer organisations, specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o MindMatters - the Australian Government's framework for improving mental health outcomes of secondary schools using a range of resources to increase the capacity of schools for mental health promotion and early intervention (also funded under the National Suicide Prevention Program); o Publications and materials to reduce stigma and raise awareness of mental illness and the rights of consumers and carers; and o The Children of Parents with a Mental Illness (COPMI) project which aims to promote better mental health outcomes for children of parents with a mental health problem or disorder. It aims to increase the availability of information on how to enhance children's resilience, reducing risk factors and resources to assist children, workers and families in relation to parental mental illness (also funded under the NEIS initiative). - The New Early Intervention Services for Parents, Children and Young People (NEIS) initiative provides a framework for mental health promotion, prevention and early intervention for children from birth to 12 years and funds activities including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o KidsMatter Primary initiative which aims to improve the mental health and wellbeing of primary school students, reduce mental health problems among students, and achieve greater support and assistance for students showing signs of mental health problems. It is being extended to a further 300 schools following its pilot project in 101 schools; o KidsMatter Early Childhood initiative which aims to expand the KidsMatter concept into early childhood settings and enable preschools and long day care centres to implement evidence based mental health promotion, prevention and early intervention strategies that will improve the social and emotional health and wellbeing of children from birth to school age, reduce mental health problems, and achieve greater support and assistance for children showing signs of mental health problems. The initiative will be piloted in at least 110 preschools and long

- day care centres across Australia over the 2010 and 2011 calendar years;
- o KidsMatter Transition to School: Parent Initiative which is an evidence-based approach to parenting guidance and support at the time of transition from preschool to primary school that will become an integrated part of the Parenting Support and Education component of the KidsMatter Primary School initiative;
 - o Strengthening early intervention pathways and ensuring the best available guidance and support is available on the management of significant mental health disorders such as eating disorders and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder; and
 - o Early childhood initiatives for indigenous parents and children which expand the KidsMatter framework to develop culturally appropriate information and resources aimed at the indigenous early childhood sector and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and parents.
- Support Autism MBS Items are a package of initiatives developed and implemented to support allied health professionals, consultant paediatricians, consultant psychiatrists and general practitioners in their care and management of children with autism and other pervasive developmental disorders. They aim to increase early and accurate diagnosis and access to essential early intervention therapy. The Department is providing appropriate orientation, information and training to professionals, to support the implementation of the items, through funding Allied Health Professions Australia; the Royal Australian College of General Practice; and the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine.
- Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs**
- Mental Health Community Based Service work with carers and families impacted by severe mental illness to help build resilience and coping skills for the family as early intervention or prevention.
 - National Disability Agreement - As part of the National Disability Agreement, a National Framework for Service Planning and Access will be developed, focussing on providing a person centred approach to service delivery and to simplify access to specialist disability services.
 - Children's Policy - Whilst we do not deliver any targeted prevention and early intervention programs for children and their families, we are involved in several national projects which will influence the implementation of targeted prevention and early intervention programs as indicated in the action item. These include:
 - o National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020 – On 30 April 2009, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) endorsed the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020. All Australian governments have endorsed this National Framework and are committed to implementing the initial actions it contains. It is a long-term, national approach to help protect all Australian children. The National Framework represents an unprecedented level of collaboration between Australian, State and Territory governments and non-government organisations to protect children by placing children's interests firmly at the centre of everything we do. Enhancing mental health care responses for children who have been abused or neglected to ensure they receive the support and care they need is addressed in several priorities under the Framework.
 - o National Early Childhood Development Strategy – On 2 July 2009, COAG endorsed the National Early Childhood Development Strategy- Investing in the Early Years (the Strategy). In jointly developing the Strategy, the Australian, State and Territory governments have signalled their intention to take a leadership role in early childhood development now and into the future. The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) is taking the lead on the Strategy which aims to improve the health, safety, early learning and wellbeing of all children and better support disadvantaged children to reduce inequalities. The Strategy will help all levels of government to build a more effective and better coordinated national early childhood development system to support the diverse needs of Australian children and their families. Whilst DEEWR is taking the lead with the Strategy as a whole, FaHCSIA has responsibility for Priority 2 (Support for Vulnerable Children) and is providing input and advice throughout the development phase.
 - Other projects and initiatives – FaHCSIA is also leading a project aimed at building the capacity of adult services (such as mental health) to have a focus on children and be able to refer families to appropriate services for the child.
 - Families and Children's Policy - Targeted prevention and early intervention programs for children and their families (9) – the Commonwealth and state, through the Early Childhood Strategy, are working on support for vulnerable children and their families, including mapping of relevant services (including mental health).

- The Family Relationship Services are dealing with clients with increasingly complex needs. Significant increases were recorded between 2007/08 and 2008/09 for clients presenting with mental illness and drug and alcohol abuse issues. Diagnosed mental illness increased from 448 clients to 2377 (an increase of 430%) and drug and alcohol use increased from 7645 to 9340 (an increase of 22%). The aim of current program development is to offer more coordinated and responsive services that are a point of contact with the wider service system and to link clients to more appropriate services around specific to needs including mental health.
- Developing tailored mental health care responses for highly vulnerable children is a priority under the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children (responding to sexual abuse) and also links with the Early Childhood Strategy work.
- Community Investment Program - aims to improve the responsiveness and integration of local community services to increase participation of vulnerable people in community life. This initiative funds a wide range of projects that promote social connectedness and civic engagement (protective factors known to impact on mental health and well being), intervene early to avoid family crisis, establish positive goals that help avert destructive influences and encourage and assist individuals to achieve their full potential. Projects are listed by state and territory at http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/communities/progserv/community_investment/Pages/default.aspx
- Volunteer Grants - this initiative is part of the Australian Government's ongoing commitment to supporting volunteering, and building social inclusion and community participation in Australian communities. Details are available at http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/volunteers/funding/Pages/volunteer_grants2010.aspx
- The Helping Children with Autism (HCWA) package gives greater access to a range of early intervention programs including one-on-one intensive activities and tailored group and individual programs.

All eligible children with a diagnosis of an ASD, up to their seventh birthday have access to the early intervention funding of up to \$12,000 (up to \$6,000 per financial year) regardless of whether or not they have commenced school.

Parents can choose the early intervention measures that best suit their child from a panel of service providers. In recognition of the additional challenges faced by families in outer regional and remote areas, they may also be eligible for a further \$2,000 to help their children benefit from early intervention services, as well as training, respite and other resources.

In addition to the HCWA package, the Government is establishing six Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centres which will provide early learning programs and specific support to children with ASDs or ASD like symptoms in a long day care setting.

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

- The Youth Connections program will be delivered under the National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions. It builds on the success of some of the existing programs and streamlines support for young people.

Youth Connections will be a service delivery program providing support for young people at risk of leaving school early or who have already disengaged from school.

Youth Connections will improve education and life skills outcomes for all people at risk of not attaining Year 12 or equivalent and not making a successful transition to further education, training or work. Youth Connections will support personal development and facilitate connection with and progression through education.

Youth Connections providers will offer a continuum of service to at risk and disengaged youth. Youth Connections will address barriers to transitioning through education and training to employment, including mental health issues and other personal barriers.

	<p>Human Services Portfolio</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Child Support Program has in place a range of partnerships aimed at supporting separated and separating families. Formal partnerships include; <i>beyondblue</i> – the national depression initiative, Kid’s Help Line, Australian General Practice Network and a newly created partnership with ANZ Bank aimed at improving financial literacy. The Child Support Program works in partnership with Family Relationship Service Providers (through their Peak Body Family Relationship Services Australia) and Family Relationship Centres. The Child Support Program also works closely with legal practitioners and financial counsellors.
<p>10. Expand community-based youth mental health services which are accessible and combine primary health care, mental health and alcohol and other drug services.</p>	<p>Department of Health and Ageing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under recent COAG announcements, the Australian Government committed to the expansion of youth friendly mental health services. This will include up to 30 new headspace youth-friendly service sites, extra funding for the existing 30 headspace sites, and improvements to telephone and web-based services for young people. This announcement builds on the success of the current headspace program as evidenced by the recent evaluation of the Program which showed most young people reported improvements in the mental health as a result of using the service. - Building on the success and knowledge gained through the ‘Can Do’ initiative the Department is funding APGN until June 2010 to undertake <i>Building on ‘Can Do’</i> Grants Program which will enable Division of General Practice to apply for funds to enhance their capacity to develop and sustain delivery of quality mental health and substance use programs and services at a local level. <p>Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mental Health Community Based Services – family counselling and other localised support services for families impacted by severe mental illness, targets young people aged 16 to 24 years of age. - Community Investment Program - aims to improve the responsiveness and integration of local community services to increase participation of vulnerable people in community life. This initiative funds a wide range of projects that promote social connectedness and civic engagement (protective factors known to impact on mental health and well being), intervene early to avoid family crisis, establish positive goals that help avert destructive influences and encourage and assist individuals to achieve their full potential. Projects are listed by state and territory at http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/communities/progserv/community_investment/Pages/default.aspx - Volunteer Grants - this initiative is part of the Australian Government's ongoing commitment to supporting volunteering, and building social inclusion and community participation in Australian communities. Details are available at http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/volunteers/funding/Pages/volunteer_grants2010.aspx
<p>11. Implement evidence-based and cost-effective models of intervention for early psychosis in young people to provide broader national coverage.</p>	<p>Department of Health and Ageing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under recent COAG announcements, the Australian Government is contributing \$24.8 million over four years to expand early psychosis services for young people aged 16 and 25 years. These young people and their families will benefit from improved detection of, and earlier treatment and holistic support for, early psychosis. Interested State and Territory Government will be invited to partner with the Australian Government to invest in this project. This approach builds on the successful implementation of the Early Psychosis Prevention and Intervention Centre (EPPIC) model in Victoria.

12. Provide education about mental health and suicide prevention to front line workers in emergency, welfare and associated sectors.

Department of Health and Ageing

- The National Suicide Prevention Program is funding the following activities:
 - o Youth adaptation Mental Health First Aid - ORYGEN Research Centre;
 - Square Project - education and training to GPs in SA, managed by SA State Office; and
 - Wesley Mission - LifeForce Suicide Prevention Education and Training project - mostly community members but some welfare/NGP/NFP organisations.
- The Mental Health Response to the 2009 Victorian Bushfires provides funding for:
 - o Community Capacity Building – including mental health training, professional development and support to primary and secondary schools affected by the fires and frontline training for non-health professional community leaders and key community members. The professional development is being targeted to the teachers and school staff in these schools to better respond to bushfire affected children, better identify those with early signs and symptoms of mental health disorders which may require professional assistance and understand when to refer to appropriate services; and
 - o Supporting Health Professionals - the delivery of specialised training and support to GPs, general nurses and specialist mental health practitioners.
- A cross-professional working group was established to inform the delivery of education and training from mid-2009 for professionals working with those affected by the Victorian bushfires. The Cross-Professional Education and Training Working Group comprises experts from each medical and allied mental health profession and others with expertise in trauma management.
- The Working Group has endorsed a framework for the delivery of education and training which is inclusive of the ATAPS providers. The Framework for Mental Health Response to the Victorian Bushfires identifies three levels of training requirements for professionals providing psychological care for people affected by the bushfires, as follows:
 - o Level 1: Generic Workers (Teachers, Clergy, Welfare workers, Youth workers, Maternal health care nurses, etc.); Level 2: Primary Care Health Workers (ATAPS, GPs, Nurses, Psychologists, Social Workers, Occupational Therapists, etc.); and
 - o Level 3: Specialist Mental Health Workers (Postgraduate Psychologists, Psychiatrists, some ATAPS workers, etc.).
- Funding has been provided to the Australian Psychological Society (APS) to work with the Australian Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health to develop and deliver education, training and support to GPs and ATAPS allied health professionals within the affected Divisions of General Practice.
- The Department has also provided funding to the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists to provide training and support for psychiatrists working with clients affected by the bushfires. This includes resources and workshops to improve psychiatrists' knowledge and competency in trauma responses as well as referral pathways to assist GPs refer their patients appropriately.
- The Mental Health in Tertiary Curricula Program provided funding to various allied health professions to review and update their existing accreditation standards in relation to mental health best practice. The Program also funded the development and implementation of projects to increase the mental health content of tertiary curricula. In January 2010 the Program was expanded and universities were invited to apply for funding to develop multidisciplinary training modules for students in allied health, nursing and medical disciplines.
- COAG Improving the Capacity of Workers in Indigenous Communities initiative which supports health workers to identify and address mental illness and sub use and to recognise early signs of mental illness in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Mental Health Textbook is a textbook for use by health practitioners working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and students in the Vocational Education Training (VET) and tertiary education sector nationally.
- Mental Health Toolkit (previously Multi-Media Resource) for health practitioners working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

(Aboriginal Health Workers, nurses, counsellors and other clinic staff) including a range of mental health literacy, health promotion and training resources. Health Outcomes International is currently undertaking a scoping study which will inform the development of the Toolkit, which may include the development or adaptation of a assessment tool(s).

- Mental Health Assessment Tool for health practitioners working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (Aboriginal Health Workers, nurses, counsellors and other clinic staff) undertaking mental health assessments for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including those with co-morbidities of mental health issues in conjunction with substance use issues. Health Outcomes International is currently undertaking a scoping study which will inform the development of the Toolkit, which may include the development or adaptation of a assessment tool(s).
- Mental Health Worker Positions (ten) have been provided nationally, as well as development of resources and information to support health practitioners to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people at risk of, or experiencing mental illness.
- 25 Peggy Hunter Memorial Scheme scholarships for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students undertaking studies in a mental health discipline across the fields of medicine, nursing, allied health and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker courses.

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

- Service providers funded through the Targeted Community Care (mental health) Program are required to have mental health training. Mental health education is embedded in the principles of the Program.

Human Services Portfolio

- Centrelink has commenced a national rollout of Mental Health First Aid training to its staff. This program is aimed at better informing and skilling our staff in their interactions with customers presenting with mental health issues.

Department of Veterans' Affairs

- The Department commissioned the Australian Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health (ACPMH) to develop a clinical algorithm for health practitioners based on the National Health and Medical Research Council Australian Guidelines for the Treatment of Adults with Acute Stress Disorder (ASD) and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The algorithm aims to assist practitioners in providing best practice clinical care for people with ASD or PTSD. The algorithm has been widely distributed to primary care providers, specifically those in general practice.
- A Mental Health Advice Book for health practitioners helping veterans with common mental health problems was developed to assist all health practitioners to deliver the most effective mental health treatment for veterans. It draws upon the latest Australian and international best practice guidelines for the treatment of common mental health problems.
- A Suicide Awareness Staff Training Package for Centrelink staff was developed to assist frontline workers to identify and appropriately respond to and refer members of the veteran community to appropriate related mental health services, if required.

Department of Defence

- As part of the goal to improve mental health training for the workforce, the Defence Acute Mental Health on Operations (AMHOO) course will be delivered to all deploying health professionals. This course specifically addresses management of acute military mental health issues on operation.
- Regional mental health teams are an important part of enhancing the mental health workforce and will be created to provide mental health literacy training, specifically suicide prevention and alcohol, tobacco and other drugs programs.
- The Australian Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health has been contracted to develop and deliver clinical case management training both face to face and online modules to enhance effective evidence based models of care delivery within the multi-disciplinary care team.

13. Coordinate state, territory and Commonwealth suicide prevention activities through a nationally agreed suicide prevention framework to improve efforts to identify people at risk of suicide and improve the effectiveness of services and support available to them.

Department of Health and Ageing

- The National Suicide Prevention Program (NSPP):
 - o Provides community-based grants managed by state and territory offices, projects funded under the community based grants component that have national applicability and national projects that are not community based grants but have a national focus (LIFE Communications and LIFE Framework, Mindframe Media Initiative, SANE Australia); and
 - o Is funding the Access to Allied Psychological Services suicide prevention trial.
- The Commonwealth has convened a working group with jurisdictions to coordinate the alignment of Suicide Prevention Frameworks across all jurisdiction. This group has met on 5 February 2010 and 7 May 2010. Jurisdictions have agreed to use the LIFE Framework as the National framework for suicide prevention.
- The Government is providing \$276.9 million (over four years) for the Mental Health: Taking action to tackle suicide package. This includes:
 - o \$113.9 million to boost frontline services and provide more services to those at greatest risk of suicide, including psychology and psychiatry services and non-clinical support to assist people with severe mental illness and carers with day-to-day needs;
 - o \$74.3 million in direct suicide prevention and crisis intervention, including more services through Lifeline and funding to improve safety at suicide hotspots;
 - o \$22.8 million to provide more services and support to men who are at greatest risk of suicide, including through Beyondblue to assist up to 30,000 additional men each year; and
 - o \$65.9 million to promote good mental health and resilience in young people to prevent suicide later in life.

Human Services Portfolio

- Suicide Prevention training is regularly provided to Centrelink's front line staff by Centrelink social workers.

Department of Veterans' Affairs

Independent Study into Suicide in the Ex-Service Community by Professor David Dunt.

- The recommendations from the Suicide Study will provide a key platform to assist the Government to improve mental health services for the veteran and ex-service community and cover wide ranging matters including suicide prevention, mental health programs, compensation schemes and administrative processes.

Operation Life – A National Suicide Prevention Strategy for the Veteran Community

- Operation *Life* was developed in consultation with the veteran community and the Departments of Defence and Health and Ageing. Operation *Life* was developed from the Living Is For Everyone (*Life*) National Suicide Prevention Strategy, but specifically targeted to the veteran community. It lays out a framework for action to raise awareness and suicide prevention.
- A major component of Operation *Life* is a choice of workshops offered through the VVCS – Veterans and Veterans Family counselling Service across Australia. There are three Operation *Life* workshops: a half-day introduction workshop, a two-day skills training workshop, and a half-day refresher workshop. Operation *Life* workshops are particularly targeted at veterans living in rural and remote areas.

Department of Defence

- Dunt 2009 – 'Review of Mental Health Care in the ADF and Transition through Discharge'
- The recommendations from the Dunt 2009 ADF study provides the springboard to ensure the best mental health support is available to ADF personnel and the ex-service community. The Strategic Reform Process will address the gaps identified, including providing improved mental health governance and policy, enhanced mental health workforce, improved mental health training for ADF personnel and providers, enhanced prevention strategies including greater research and surveillance, enhanced mental health rehabilitation and transition services greater involvement of families in the mental health of ADF members and better facilities from which mental health services will be delivered.

<p>14. Expand the level and range of support for families and carers of people with mental illness and mental health problems, including children of parents with a mental illness.</p>	<p>The Department of Health and Ageing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Children of Parents with a Mental Illness project aims to promote better mental health outcomes for children of parents with a mental health problem or disorder. It aims to increase the availability of information on how to enhance children's resilience, reducing risk factors and resources to assist children, workers and families in relation to parental mental illness (funded under the National Mental Health Program and NEIS). - The Department funds school based initiatives as well as support for consumer and carer organisations. - The Australian Child and Adolescent Trauma Loss and Grief Network is a web based network, with website content that is informed by a panel of experts in different areas related to children and adolescents and their trauma, loss and grief. It aims to link stakeholders and resources by providing up-to-date information; an online forum for people to communicate and share information and expertise; and key resources to help people understand and respond to the diverse and complex needs of these children, adolescents and their families. <p>The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mental Health Respite – provides respite and support for carers of people with mental illness, including young carers. Services can include counselling, education and peer support as well as alternate care. - Mental Health Community Based Services – includes family counselling services and local projects to support families. A component of this COAG initiative was the Carer Engagement Project, aimed at building resilience and help-seeking amongst carers. The Adversity to Advocacy report, which documents the outcomes of the workshops, was launched on 22 October 2009. - Young Carers Respite and Information Services Program – provides support to young carers who are at risk of not completing secondary education or vocational equivalent due to the demands of their caring role. Approximately one-third of clients are children of parents with a mental illness. The program enables young carers to access respite services and age appropriate support including educational, social and recreational activities, for example time off to study for exams, tutoring, skills development, young carer camps and activities in the school holidays. The program also provides a range of information, advice and referral services, including referral to counselling, to support young carers in managing the challenges they face as part of their caring role. - A National Carer Recognition Framework that includes a National Carer Strategy is being developed. The Strategy will identify priorities and actions to improve support for families and carers of people with disability, medical condition, mental illness and frailty due to age. The Strategy will shape the long-term agenda for reform and guide policy development and the delivery of services for carers and consider, amongst other things, the training and skills development needs of carers and the adequacy of case management and care coordination for carers. - National Disability Agreement - Early intervention and prevention is one area identified as a priority under the National Disability Agreement. An Early Intervention and Prevention Framework will be developed to increase Governments' ability to be effective with early intervention and prevention strategies and to ensure that clients receive the most appropriate and timely support by mid 2011. - UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disability - Article 28 of the Convention recognises the right to an adequate standard of living and social protection, including housing, services and assistance for disability-related needs, as well as assistance with disability related expenses where necessary. Under the Convention, Australia is obliged to develop and carry out policies, laws and administrative measures for securing this and all other rights recognised in the Convention. - National Secretariat Program - FaHCSIA provides funding to 12 national disability peak organisations to provide 'grass roots' policy advice to the Australian Government and other agencies on national issues affecting people with disability and their families. This policy advice assists government to better target services to the needs of people with disability. - Families and Children's Policy - Targeted prevention and early intervention programs for children and their families (9) – the Commonwealth and
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	<p>state, through the Early Childhood Strategy, are working on support for vulnerable children and their families, including mapping of relevant services (including mental health).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Family Relationship Services are dealing with clients with increasingly complex needs. Significant increases were recorded between 2007/08 and 2008/09 for clients presenting with mental illness and drug and alcohol abuse issues. Diagnosed mental illness increased from 448 clients to 2377 (an increase of 430%) and drug and alcohol use increased from 7645 to 9340 (an increase of 22%). The aim of current program development is to offer more coordinated and responsive services that are a point of contact with the wider service system and to link clients to more appropriate services around specific to needs including mental health. - Developing tailored mental health care responses for highly vulnerable children is a priority under the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children (responding to sexual abuse) and also links with the Early Childhood Strategy work. - Community Investment Program - aims to improve the responsiveness and integration of local community services to increase participation of vulnerable people in community life. This initiative funds a wide range of projects that promote social connectedness and civic engagement (protective factors known to impact on mental health and well being), intervene early to avoid family crisis, establish positive goals that help avert destructive influences and encourage and assist individuals to achieve their full potential. Projects are listed by state and territory at http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/communities/progserv/community_investment/Pages/default.aspx - Volunteer Grants - this initiative is part of the Australian Government's ongoing commitment to supporting volunteering, and building social inclusion and community participation in Australian communities. Details are available at http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/volunteers/funding/Pages/volunteer_grants2010.aspx <p>Human Services Portfolio</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Centrelink social workers provide services to young carers to help them negotiate the Centrelink system. - The Child Support Program provides support to customers in emotional distress or at risk of harm to themselves and others via a range of referrals to support services. The most immediate is the Parent Support Service – an immediate and confidential telephone counselling service. - The Child Support Program supports the children of separated parents through targeted support and information products; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o A Guide to Separation for Teens (aimed at 12 to 18yrs) o CD ROM and activity booklet for the under 12s (in development) o Formal partnership with Kid's Help Line - Centrelink will implement new servicing arrangements for customers with mental health issues from May 2010. Customers who lack insight into their condition, are remotely disadvantaged, are unable to provide medical information or are unwilling to provide medical information due to their mental health condition, will have new arrangements in place to make transition to Disability Support Pension easier. Centrelink registered psychologist Job Capacity Assessors will be empowered to diagnose relevant conditions without the requirement of a detailed medical report. <p>Department of Veterans' Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Veterans and Veterans Family Counselling Service provides a range of services for the children of veterans. VVCS aims to reduce suicide risk among the children of veterans through developing partnerships with local services to ensure that sons and daughters receive appropriate care, and by supporting self-help initiatives and projects that aim to increase personal strength, resilience and coping skills. VVCS services include counselling, support and referral, psychiatric assessments, the VVCS Outreach Program, group programs and information sessions.
<p>15. Develop tailored mental health care responses for highly</p>	<p>Department of Health and Ageing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mental Health Response to the 2009 Victorian Bushfires provides funding for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Community Capacity Building – including mental health training, professional development and support to primary and secondary schools affected by the fires and frontline training for non-health professional community leaders and key community members. The professional development is being targeted to the teachers and school staff in these schools to better respond to bushfire affected children, better

vulnerable children and young people who have experienced physical, sexual or emotional abuse, or other trauma.

- identify those with early signs and symptoms of mental health disorders which may require professional assistance and understand when to refer to appropriate services; and
- o Supporting Health Professionals - the delivery of specialised training and support to GPs, general nurses and specialist mental health practitioners.
- The Australian Child and Adolescent Trauma Loss and Grief Network is a web based network, with website content that is informed by a panel of experts in different areas related to children and adolescents and their trauma, loss and grief. It aims to link stakeholders and resources by providing up-to-date information; an online forum for people to communicate and share information and expertise; and key resources to help people understand and respond to the diverse and complex needs of these children, adolescents and their families.

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

- The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children is a long-term approach to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of Australia's children. The National Framework was developed by the Australian Government in partnership with state and territory governments and the non-government sector, and was endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments in April 2009. The National Framework will operate through to 2020 with the first three year action from 2009-2012 currently underway. Developing tailored mental health care responses for highly vulnerable children is a priority under the Framework.
- UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disability - Article 7 of the Convention relates specifically to children with disability. Australia is obliged to ensure that steps are taken so children have the same rights and freedoms as other children, and that when making decisions for or about children with disability, the most important this is what is best for the child. The Convention also requires that laws and administrative measures must guarantee freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse. In case of abuse, countries must promote the recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration of the victim and investigate the abuse (Article 16).
- National Secretariat Program - FaHCSIA provides funding to Women with Disabilities Australia and Children with Disability Australia to provide 'grass roots' policy advice to the Australian Government and other agencies on national issues affecting people with disability and their families. This policy advice assists government to better target services to the needs of people with disability.
- The Family Support Program is an umbrella program with three core service streams:
 - o Community and Family Partnerships - provides intensive and coordinated support targeted at significantly disadvantaged communities and families and especially vulnerable and at risk families and children.
 - o Family and Parenting Services- provides early intervention and prevention services to families to build and strengthen relationships, develop skills and support parents and children.
 - o Family Law Services (Attorney-General's Department responsibility) - assists families to manage the process and impacts of separation in the best interests of children.

N.B. Attorney Generals also funds family and children's services

- Indigenous Children Program – focuses on early intervention and prevention in Indigenous families, particularly where children are at risk
- Indigenous Family Violence Program – supports families and communities to break the cycle of violence
- Personal Helpers and Mentors Round Four funding targets vulnerable people with mental illness who are humanitarian entrants, Forgotten Australian, the Stolen Generation or homeless. Participants are required to be 16 years or older unless they reside in a remote community where there is no age restriction.
- Families and Children's Policy - Targeted prevention and early intervention programs for children and their families (9) – the Commonwealth and state, through the Early Childhood Strategy, are working on support for vulnerable children and their families, including mapping of relevant services (including mental health).

<p>16. Develop a national service planning framework that establishes targets for the mix and level of the full range of mental health services, backed by innovative funding models.</p>	<p>Department of Health and Ageing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Department has committed funding to build a national evidence base for mental health policy and planning. This work will focus on population surveys as well as the development of a population-based service planning framework that specifies the mix and level of services required to meet a given level of need. The framework will specify service development requirements and targets that can be used to both guide future development and assess the adequacy of current mental health service systems available in Australia. Extensive consultation as well as the establishment of expert advisory groups will be required. - As a first step a scoping study to gather information on what is currently being undertaken in mental health services planning, identify what is common across jurisdictions that can inform a national approach to service planning, and identify the issues to be resolved and options for moving towards a national approach has been undertaken. Planning to commence the development of the framework is underway.
<p>17. Establish regional partnerships of funders, service providers, consumers and carers and other relevant stakeholders to develop local solutions to better meet the mental health needs of communities.</p>	<p>Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Targeted Community Care (mental health) Program Partnerships - FaHCSIA consulted widely with mental health stakeholders on the design and development of the three community based mental health initiatives for which it is responsible and is engaging with stakeholders in the current evaluation of the programs. - A PHaMs remote service model was developed to recognise and promote spiritual, cultural, mental and physical healing for Indigenous Australians living with mental illness in remote communities. Service providers are required to develop relationships and work closely with the whole community to deliver services appropriate to the community as well as individual needs. - With FaHCSIA funding the Mental Health Council of Australia conducted a series of Carer Engagement Workshops around Australia to assist families and carers to further develop coping and management skills for caring for and living with a person with a mental illness. They also provided carers with the opportunity to share their views on the most important issues and challenges they face as carers. - Through the Young Carer Respite and Information Services Program partnerships have been developed with funders, service providers, consumers and Centrelink on multiple levels. At the Commonwealth level FaHCSIA has established connections with Centrelink and the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, addressing education as well as youth issues. - FaHCSIA has also progressed issues facing young carer with State and Territory Education Departments, and meets regularly with service providers to discuss young carer needs. At the local level providers raise awareness of young carer issues in their community. Cross-referral processes have been established between providers of the program and Youth Pathways, managed by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. - Community Investment Program - aims to improve the responsiveness and integration of local community services to increase participation of vulnerable people in community life. This initiative funds a wide range of projects that promote social connectedness and civic engagement (protective factors known to impact on mental health and well being), intervene early to avoid family crisis, establish positive goals that help avert destructive influences and encourage and assist individuals to achieve their full potential. Projects are listed by state and territory at http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/communities/progserv/community_investment/Pages/default.aspx - Volunteer Grants - this initiative is part of the Australian Government's ongoing commitment to supporting volunteering, and building social inclusion and community participation in Australian communities. Details are available at http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/volunteers/funding/Pages/volunteer_grants2010.aspx <p>Human Services Portfolio</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Child Support Program coordinates with FaHCSIA, the Child Support National Stakeholder Engagement Group (CSNSEG) to better link

	<p>community, government and advocacy groups to share information and where possible promote a joined up response to parental needs. Supporting the national group are stakeholder engagement groups in each state who meet quarterly to improve information sharing and networks. In regional areas where the Child Support Program has a Regional Service Centre (co-located with Centrelink), local networks are facilitated in order to link up all local services who deal with separated families.</p>
<p>18. Improve communication and the flow of information between primary care and specialist providers, and between clinical and community support services, through the development of new systems and processes that promote continuity of care and the development of cooperative service models.</p>	<p>Department of Health and Ageing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Department of Health and Ageing funded the Mental Health Professionals' Association for Phase 1 of the Mental Health Interdisciplinary Networks (MHIN) project to develop a multidisciplinary education and training package. The package includes: an environment scan to determine the ways in which mental health professions were working together in late 2007; a multidisciplinary training package for mental health professionals; and the establishment and maintenance of a website to enable publication of Phase 1 project deliverables. - The Mental Health Professionals Network (MHPN) has been established to deliver the mental health multidisciplinary training package, developed under MHIN Phase 1, for the primary care and specialist mental health workforce. It is expected to engage up to 24,000 mental health professionals through 1,200 workshops delivered between February 2009 and July 2010. - The MHIN project aims to promote shared and collaborative referral and treatment strategies in communities across Australia. General Practitioners, Psychiatrists, Occupational Therapists, Social Workers, Psychologists and Mental Health Nurses have been attending national wide education and training workshops to discuss collaborative mental health care and network with other local mental health clinicians. Clinicians attending the workshops receive continuing professional development points from their professions. - A web portal is also being developed which will allow for the establishment of online networks supported by a central administrative function.
<p>19. Work with emergency and community services to develop protocols to guide and support transitions between service sectors and jurisdictions.</p>	
<p>20. Improve linkages and coordination between mental health, alcohol and other drug and primary care services to facilitate earlier identification of,</p>	<p>Department of Health and Ageing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Department of Health and Ageing funded the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) to develop a national clinical guide to comorbidity service delivery in the alcohol and other drug (AOD) sector. The Guidelines provide a practical guide for AOD workers in the management of a range of mental health conditions in AOD treatment settings. The Guidelines, entitled <i>Guidelines on the management of co-occurring alcohol and other drug and mental health conditions in alcohol and other drug treatment settings</i>, were released in December 2009. A training package has also been developed to facilitate the implementation of the Guidelines and is available at the Guidelines website http://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/comorbidity - The National Comorbidity Collaboration has been established to assist the Commonwealth and the States and Territories to focus on comorbidity issues and identify opportunities for progressing shared priorities and interests on a whole-of-government basis.

<p>and improved referral and treatment for, mental and physical health problems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Improved Services for People with Drug and Alcohol Problems and Mental Illness</i> initiative (Improved Services initiative) - aims to build the capacity of non-government drug and alcohol treatment services to effectively address and treat coinciding mental illness and substance abuse. It forms part of the Commonwealth's component of the Council of Australian Governments' (COAG) <i>National Action Plan on Mental Health 2006 - 2011</i>. <p>Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Personal Helpers and Mentors: As at to 31 January 2010 PHaMs has assisted 2550 (28.6%) participants who had co-morbid conditions. - The Family Support Program provides a range services available to people in need, including Forgotten Australians and former child migrants. Counselling and support services can help them deal with the inter-generational consequences of institutionalised abuse. Service providers will refer clients to specialist mental health or other intensive services as required. <p>Department of Veterans' Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Department contracted the Australian General Practice Network to provide education and training about the drug and mental health needs of veterans in the Australian community as part of the '<i>Can Do' Initiative – Managing Mental Health and Substance Use in General Practice</i>. This education and training includes resources to enhance the knowledge and skills of primary care and community health professionals and allied health workers and aims to ensure those health professionals in general practice, community health teams and designated veterans services are familiar with, and sensitive to, the particular needs of members of the veteran community. <p>Department of Defence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Department is working closely with the Australian General Practice Network to develop and deliver online training for mental health professionals, including General Practitioners, in accordance with the Better A Department of Defence
<p>21. Develop and implement systems to ensure information about the pathways into and through care is highly visible, readily accessible and culturally relevant.</p>	<p>Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ensuring information about pathways into and through care is highly visible, accessible and culturally relevant is embedded in the principles of Targeted Community Care (mental health) Program. <p>Human Services Portfolio</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Child Support Program has released (in partnership with Attorney General's Department) a website titled Familyseparation.gov.au which hosts a navigation tool entitled "My Family is Separating – What Now?" The tool enables separated and separating parents to better navigate the best pathway to services they will need including legal, relationship and financial services. The website also caters for grandparents. - For Child Support Program customers requiring a more supported approach to linking them with mental health services, there are assisted telephone referrals. <p>Department of Veterans' Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Since launching the <i>At Ease</i> website – www.at-ease.dva.gov.au – in May 2008, the Department has been focussing on raising awareness of mental health and wellbeing within the veteran community. The information on the website provides self-help information relating to mental health and wellbeing for veterans and serving members, their families, friends and carers. <p>Department of Defence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Defence health staff can refer to a number of external mental health providers in their regions. There is an agreement for services with the VVCS that allows for a visible pathway to care that is accessible across all regions.
<p>22. Better target</p>	<p>Department of Health and Ageing</p>

<p>services and address service gaps through cooperative and innovative service models for the delivery of primary mental health care.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access to Allied Psychological Services (ATAPS) provides flexible mental health care services and targets gaps for people who are unable to access Medicare rebateable mental health services. In 2010/11 a tier model was introduced. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tier 1 ATAPS will provide funding for patients unable to access psychological services due to barriers, including financial. Tier 2 ATAPS will provide for patients from specific target groups including; women with peri-natal depression, children aged 12 years and under, people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and suicide prevention. - Mental Health Services in Rural and Remote Areas recognises that people in rural and remote locations are not able to readily access Medicare rebateable mental health services. Given the diverse needs and conditions of rural and remote Australia, the Mental Health Services in Rural and Remote Areas (MHSRRA) Program employs a flexible range of service delivery models with each organisation utilising slightly different models according to the needs of its local communities. - Models available to organisations under the MHSRRA Program include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o full or part time direct employment; o 'topping up' existing part time mental health services; o subcontracting services to other organisations in the area; o 'sharing' mental health professionals, or forming a partnership, with other organisations within the community; o brokerage/sessional payments; o 'fly in/fly out'; o outreach; o hub and spoke; and o ehealth. - Organisation delivery services under the program are required to liaise with other service providers in the local area to build on and complement existing services. <p>Department of Veterans' Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - VVCS – Veterans and Veterans family counselling Service is conducting a 12-month pilot using videoconferencing technology to provide counselling to veterans and their families who live in regions where access to a local mental health service is problematic or non-existent. This is aimed at improving access to community mental health services. <p>Department of Defence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Regional Mental Health Teams will provide outreach to the health professionals in the regions by assisting with complex cases, act as a specialist referral agency as well as providing clinical supervision, training and support. - The ADF National Mental Health Centre will become the hub of tele-psychiatry services for Defence and provide supervision to mental health professionals nationally, as well as have the capability to support deployed health professionals.
<p>23. Review the Mental Health Statement of Rights and Responsibilities.</p>	<p>Department of Health and Ageing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Commonwealth will contribute to a review of the Mental Health Statement of Rights and Responsibilities to be overseen by the Safety and Quality Partnership Group. The review will involve a consultation process with stakeholders. <p>Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FaHCSIA have contributed to the review of the Statement through its membership of the Mental Health Standing Committee - The rights and responsibilities of people with mental illness, their carers and families are embedded in the principles of Targeted Community

	<p>Care (mental health) Program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A National Carers Recognition Framework that will include Commonwealth Carer Recognition Legislation is being developed. The legislation was introduced in 2010 and provides national acknowledgement of the commitment and dedication of carers.
<p>24. Review and where necessary amend mental health and related legislation to support cross-border agreements and transfers of people under civil and forensic orders, and scope requirements for the development of nationally consistent mental health legislation.</p>	<p>Department of Health and Ageing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Commonwealth will contribute to the conduct of a scoping review of existing state and territory legislation which also identifies options for moving towards nationally consistent legislation.
<p>25. Develop and commence implementation of a National Mental Health Workforce Strategy that defines standardised workforce competencies and roles in clinical, community and peer support areas.</p>	<p>Department of Health and Ageing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Commonwealth is contributing to the development of a National Mental Health Workforce Strategy and Plan which is being overseen by the Mental Health Workforce Advisory Committee. <p>Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under the National Disability Agreement, a national workforce strategy will be developed to address qualifications, training and cross sector career mapping issues and establishing the disability sector as an 'industry of choice' by the end of 2010. - FaHCSIA is contributing to the review of the National Mental Health Workforce Strategy through its membership of the Mental Health Standing Committee and participation in subcommittees working on workforce issues. - Personal Helpers and Mentors – each service provider has a team of five, including peer support workers where possible. The service guidelines define the role of each member and the required capabilities. Standardised workforce competencies for peer support workers are being developed. - National Disability Agreement - Under the National Disability Agreement, a national workforce strategy will be developed to address qualifications, training and cross sector career mapping issues and establishing the disability sector as an 'industry of choice' by the end of 2010. <p>Department of Defence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The ADF National Mental Health Centre will contribute to enhancing the mental health workforce. This centre will offer group based residential programs for ADF members, addressing the special needs of younger veterans and provide early intervention and treatment. Services will include outpatients programs and specialist professional training programs.

<p>26. Increase consumer and carer employment in clinical and community support settings.</p>	<p>Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Targeted Community Care (mental health) Program makes funding available to providers for training and support purposes including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal Helpers and Mentors engages peer support workers to help people with mental illness. • Mental Health Respite engages experienced mental health carers, where possible, to provide alternate care, information and education and peer support. <p>Human Services Portfolio</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Carers Improved Support Project has utilised carers' associations in developing training programs for Centrelink employees.
<p>27. Ensure accreditation and reporting systems in health and community sectors incorporate the National Standards for Mental Health Services.</p>	<p>Department of Health and Ageing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The revised National Standards for Mental Health Services provide the basis for accreditation of all public and private mental health services in Australia. The DoHA has committed funding to support the implementation of the Standards across sectors. This initiative will be aimed at supporting the introduction of the new Standards through the development of training and promotional materials. <p>Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Disability Agreement - Quality Improvement Systems based on Disability Standards is a priority under the National Disability Agreement. A National Disability Quality Framework with a National Quality Assurance system for disability services will be developed to introduce a national approach to quality assurance and the continuous improvement of disability services. - National Disability Agreement - Quality Improvement Systems based on Disability Standards is a priority under the National Disability Agreement. A National Disability Quality Framework with a National Quality Assurance system for disability services will be developed to introduce a national approach to quality assurance and the continuous improvement of disability services.
<p>28. Further develop and progress implementation of the National Mental Health Performance and Benchmarking Framework</p>	<p>Department of Health and Ageing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The DoHA funded the National Mental Health Benchmarking Project between 2006-08 aimed to facilitate a culture of information use and continuous quality improvement through the establishment of time limited benchmarking forums for adult, child and adolescent, older persons and forensic mental health services. The Project laid the foundation for large scale engagement by publicly funded mental health services to compare performance data and work together to achieve best practice standards. - An evaluation report of this project is expected to be released in the first half of 2010. - The DoHA will continue to support national service benchmarking as committed in the Fourth Plan and will establish a national benchmarking network of organisations to lead the sector. Ongoing internet-facilitated tools will be developed that provide the means for mental health provider organisations to undertake collaborative benchmarking using the national performance indicator framework.
<p>29. Develop a national mental health research strategy to drive collaboration and inform the research agenda.</p>	<p>Department of Health and Ageing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Commonwealth will contribute to the development of a national mental health <i>research</i> strategy. This will be developed under the auspices of the NHMRC which will establish a reference group to bring together a range of mental health research interests. - Psychogeriatric Research is aimed at improving the care and treatment of people with psychogeriatric conditions in aged care homes. This work is being undertaken collaboratively between the Department of Health and Ageing and the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). Research to be undertaken will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o promote an evidence base for medication and psychosocial interventions for people with more severe psychogeriatric conditions; and/or o promote collaborative partnerships between researchers and service providers particularly across the older persons mental health and aged

	<p>care sectors.</p> <p>Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social Policy Research Paper No. 39 <i>'Longing to Belong: personal social capital and psychological distress in an Australian coastal region'</i>, contributes to the articulation and critical evaluation of perceptions about community participation and how it impacts mental health. It also adds to the evidence base for the development of social policy. - Carer Engagement Project Report <i>Adversity to Advocacy</i> describes the 15 major issues faced by carers of people with mental illness across Australia. - National Disability Agreement - Disability Ministers have agreed to contribute \$10 million over 5 years for disability research. Initial national efforts will concentrate on several identified priority areas to underpin the policy directions and achieve reforms in the disability service system. The research effort will be focused on building the evidence base for policy and practical change relevant to the outcomes of the National Disability Agreement <p>Department of Veterans' Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Through its Applied Research Program (ARP), DVA commissions research that contributes to the strategic development, implementation and improvement of veteran-related policy and service delivery. This enables the Department to better identify the holistic needs of current and former members of the ADF and deliver maximum benefit to the veteran and defence communities. One of the specific ARP priorities is veterans physical and mental health needs: A wellness approach. A number of active research projects are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Veterans: Real Partners in Health – A trial of implementing evidence-based care and self management for veterans with alcohol related disorders; o The effectiveness of Cognitive Processing Therapy for Veterans and Veterans' Families Counselling Service clients with Posttraumatic Stress Disorder; o Australian Peacekeepers: the long-term effects on mental health status, health service use and quality of life; o Promoting the use of evidence-based psychological treatment of posttraumatic mental health problems; o Suicide in the Ex-service Community Review; and o Veterans at Risk Study 2008. <p>Department of Defence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The collection of prevalence mental health data will enable the capture of mental health information to inform future priorities of mental health programs. Defence will explore options for adapting current research programs to meet an identified need. This will be assisted by the introduction of an electronic health record. Defence will continue to place priority on mental health research.
<p>30. Expand and better utilise innovative approaches to service delivery including telephone and e-mental health services.</p>	<p>Department of Health and Ageing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - COAG Telephone Counselling, Self-Help and Support program funds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The Inspire Foundation to enhance and extend the Reach Out! Service; o The Telephone-Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (T-CBT) trial in rural and remote areas; o The Clinical Research Unit for Anxiety and Depression (CRUfAD) online treatment program, encouraging mental health professionals and GPS to provide evidence-based online treatment programs as a valuable adjunct to other treatments; o Kids Help Line – a free, confidential, anonymous 24-hour telephone counselling service for young people aged 5-25 years. Also offers online counselling service; o Kids Helpline Expanded Indigenous Services Project which is an extension of the mainstream Kids Helpline and aims to improve indigenous children's access to telephone counselling and online support, and improve responses and intervention techniques for indigenous callers in culturally sensitive ways; and o Other similar projects for telephone crisis counselling and the development of evidence-based online mental health treatment programs to

supplement or substitute face-to-face services, such as the Black Dog Institute's Mobile Tracker program and Australian National University Centre for Mental Health Research –e-hub programs and the Swinburn University eTherapy Unit which has developed an online CBT program to manage anxiety.

- The National Suicide Call Back Service provides funding to the Victorian Crisis Support Service to expand the Call Back Service to provide national coverage.
- The Consumer Activity Network (CAN) - Phone Connections. A Peer support phone support for people living with a mental illness that operates 4 evenings a week. Does not rely on callers ringing in to receive support, rather peer support workers call consumers who have been referred.

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

- Innovative approaches to service delivery to meet the needs of individuals, families and communities across a wide range of situations and locations is embedded in the principles of Targeted Community Care (mental health) Program:
 - o Personal Helpers and Mentors mainstream model was adapted to meet the specific needs of remote communities, including removing age restrictions.
 - o Mental Health Respite services are tailored to meet the needs of individual carers and person to whom they provide care and can include telephone services as well as internet education and peer support.
 - o Community Base Services and Mental Health Respite use art and craft groups, camps, cultural outings and social and sporting activities to meet the needs of people with mental illness, their carers and families.
 - o Mental Health Program Evaluation has assessed the effectiveness of FaHCSIA community based mental health services including innovation in service delivery.
- FaHCSIA's Targeted Community Care Program funds a service in Central Queensland to deliver:
 - o on-line recovery training (Boston model from the centre of psychiatric rehabilitation) to staff working in the mental health sector. This is a certified on-line training course aligned with contemporary approaches that are recovery focused; and
 - o recovery based workshops, education and mentoring support through the internet, phone services, DVDs and face-to-face mentoring to meet the challenges of rural and remote carers.

Human Services Portfolio

- The Child Support Program administers the Parent Support Service a priority telephone service for its customers who present in emotional distress or who are at risk of self harm or harm to others.
- The Child Support Program is also able to immediately transfer to Centrelink any customers who identify as being fearful of collecting child support for an assessment and possible exemption via Centrelink Social Workers. The Family Relationships Advice Line (FRAL) is utilised for a high number of Child Support Program customers requiring support and on-referral for parenting or relationship issues.

Department of Veterans' Affairs

- The VVCS – Veterans and Veterans Family Counselling Service (VVCS) provides a range of e health services to veterans, families and current and former members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF).
 - o Changing the Mix is a self paced correspondence alcohol program open to all Australian veterans and peacekeepers and their partners, adult sons and daughters of Vietnam veterans and all current members of the Australian Defence Force. DVA entitlement is not required, and information is confidential.
 - o The program is delivered via correspondence, with modules sent to participants. Participants complete the modules, monitor their drinking and assess their progress with the support of a Changing the Mix consultant.
 - o Veterans Line is the after-hours crisis counselling service designed to assist veterans and their families in coping with crisis situations outside of VVCS office hours. It is administered through the VVCS and delivered through a single national contracted provider, Crisis Support Service.
 - o Video counselling - a 12-month pilot using videoconferencing technology is being conducted to provide counselling to veterans and their

	<p>families who live in regions where access to a local mental health service is problematic or non-existent. This is aimed at improving access to community mental health services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The use of SMS text messaging was implemented to remind clients (who consented to being contacted in this way) of counselling appointments and group program sessions. Staff in each centre were provided with training in the use of the SMS portal. This service to clients commenced in December 2008 and will be evaluated at the end of the first 12 months through a review of 'did not attend' statistics, client satisfaction surveys and staff consultation <p>Department of Defence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An electronic E-Health system is being developed that will meet world best practice standards. The introduction of this system will have a wide reaching impact allowing seamless access to health information for all health workers, both within and external to ADF. Communication within the multi-disciplinary teams will be greatly enhanced. Research will be enabled through the development of easily accessed databases. - The All Hours Support Line in a 24 hour telephone counselling support service offered by Defence to all serving members and their families. - A scoping study will be conducted to explore alternative models for delivery of rehabilitation both in Defence and civilian environments. The goal will be to develop an innovative approach that meets the unique needs of serving military personnel and their particular conditions.
<p>31. Establish comprehensive, timely and regular national reporting on the progress of mental health reform which responds to the full range of stakeholder needs.</p>	<p>Department of Health and Ageing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The DoHA funds the publication of three annual reports on mental health services in Australia: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The National Mental Health Report (National Mental Health Report). o The Mental Health Services in Australia (MHSIA). o The annual report on progress of the COAG Action Plan on Mental Health. - The DoHA together with the Mental Health Information Strategy Subcommittee (MHISS) are committed to removing the duplication across the reports and improve their timeliness and relevance. They are in the process of developing a restructured National Mental Health Report which will report on mental health reform and respond to the full range of stakeholder needs. The restructured report will report progress and outcomes of the Fourth Plan and continue to report against the key contextual indicators used in previous reports. As outlined in the Fourth Plan the restructured report will also include independent commentaries from invited national stakeholders and other bodies to contribute to the ongoing analysis of mental health reform in Australia. <p>Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FaHCSIA is contributing to the establishment of national reporting through its membership of the Mental Health Information Strategy Subcommittee and Mental Health Standing Committee
<p>32. Build an accountable service delivery system that monitors its performance on service quality indicators and makes this information available to consumers and</p>	<p>Department of Health and Ageing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The issue of public reporting was discussed by the National Mental Health Information Strategy Committee (MHISS) at its meeting of 19-20 November 2009. MHISS agreed the approach taken to implementation of the Fourth Plan needs to be informed by lessons learned elsewhere and identify the risks and opportunities awaiting the Australian mental health sector. - MHISS, with funding from the DoHA, are undertaking a review of the available evidence and experience, in both published and grey literature, of public reporting at the health service provider level. This review will inform the development of recommendations and an implementation strategy for the introduction of public reporting by mental health service organisations. <p>Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FaHCSIA is contributing to building of an accountable service delivery system through its membership of the Mental Health Information Strategy Subcommittee and Mental Health Standing Committee

other stakeholders.	
<p>33. Further develop mental health information, including national mental health data collections, that provide the foundation for system accountability and reporting.</p>	<p>Department of Health and Ageing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The DoHA together with the Mental Health Information Strategy Subcommittee (MHISS) are working towards filling gaps in current national data collections and developing new data methods that can be implemented in day to day service delivery. They are reviewing the current National Mental Health Information Priorities, including the development in the priority areas identified in the Fourth National Mental Health Plan (consumer perceptions, recovery measures etc.). - The DoHA have funded AIHW to scope the issues, options and work required to develop a National Minimum Data Set for the NGO mental health sector. As part of the first stage of the scoping exercise the AIHW initiated contact with stakeholders to begin gaining a better understanding of current jurisdictional mental health NGO activities and any existing requirements for data collection and reporting that may already exist. Consultations have occurred with a number of jurisdictions' government departments, peak bodies and organisations. - DoHA will commit funding to reviewing the initiatives being taken by several jurisdictions to regularly monitor consumer perceptions of care, with the aim of developing a national standard set of indicators for use by all states and territories. This will be followed by a trial of current consumer perceptions of care and recovery measures, with the aim to incorporate them into routine outcome collections. <p>Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FaHCSIA is contributing to the development of mental health information through its membership of the Mental Health Information Strategy Subcommittee and Mental Health Standing Committee
<p>34. Conduct a rigorous evaluation of the Fourth National Mental Health Plan.</p>	<p>Department of Health and Ageing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The DoHA has agreed to fund an external contractor to develop an evaluation framework for the Fourth Plan during 2010 and has set aside funding for future years for prospective data collections beginning in 2010-11 and extending to the evaluation of the Fourth Plan in 2014. The evaluation will "involve the development of a clear framework at its outset that operationalises the aims of the Fourth Plan in a manner that enables them to be assessed". This framework will be used to determine any additional evaluative information that needs to be collected to examine the extent to which the aims of the Fourth Plan are achieved. <p>Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FaHCSIA will contribute to the evaluation of the Fourth National Mental Health Plan through its membership of the Mental Health Information Strategy Subcommittee and Mental Health Standing Committee