



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

Ms Shelley Wilkins
Executive Director
Citizens Commission on Human Rights
PO Box 6402
NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2059

Dear Ms Wilkins

Freedom of Information Request: No. 230-1011

I refer to the decision of Mr Alan Singh, Assistant Secretary, Mental Health Systems Improvement Branch dated 15 August 2011 granting access in part to the documents you requested under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

The enclosed documents are now released to you, in accordance with the decision of the authorised delegate, as third party review rights have now expired.

Please contact me on 6289 1666 if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature block]

Dolores Schneider
Acting Principal Legal Adviser
FOI Coordinator
FOI Unit
Legal Services Branch

23 September 2011

MENTAL HEALTH EXPERT WORKING GROUP

Draft Record of Meeting
Meeting 2: Tuesday 25 January 2011
10am – 1.30pm
Parliament House, Canberra

Attendance:

Members

- The Hon Mark Butler MP, Minister for Mental Health and Ageing (Chair)
- Professor Patrick McGorry, Executive Director, Orygen Youth Health
- Monsignor David Cappo, Vice-Chair, Australian Social Inclusion Board and Office for the Commissioner of Social Inclusion SA; Deputy Chair National Advisory Council on Mental Health
- Professor Ian Hickie, Executive Director, Brain and Mind Research Institute
- Dr Christine McAuliffe, General Practitioner
- Ms Sally Sinclair, CEO National Employment Services Association
- Professor Frank Oberklaid, Director Centre for Community Child Health, The Royal Children's Hospital
- Mr Toby Hall, CEO Mission Australia
- Ms Janet Meagher, Divisional Manager (Inclusion), Psychiatric Rehabilitation Australia
- Mr Anthony Fowke, President of the Association of Relatives and Friends of the Mentally Ill (ARAFMI) Australia
- Dr Pat Dudgeon, Psychologist, School of Indigenous Studies, University of Western Australia
- Professor Lyn Littlefield, Executive Director, Australian Psychological Society

Observers

- Ms Jane Halton, Secretary, Department of Health and Ageing
- Ms Trish Woolley, Adviser, Office of the Hon Julia Gillard, the Prime Minister
- Ms Karen Grogan, Chief of Staff, Office of Minister for Mental Health and Ageing
- Dr Angela Pratt, Chief of Staff, Office of the Hon Nicola Roxon, Minister for Health and Ageing
- Mr Paul Donegan, Adviser, Office of the Hon Jenny Macklin, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- Mr Paul Hupalo, Office of the Hon Tanya Plibersek, Minister for Human Services
- Ms Donisha Duff, Office of the Hon Warren Snowdon, Minister for Indigenous Health
- Mr Joe Castellino, A/g First Assistant Secretary, Social Policy Division, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Ms Georgie Harman, First Assistant Secretary, Mental Health and Chronic Disease Division, Department of Health and Ageing
- Ms Virginia Hart, Assistant Secretary, Mental Health Reform Branch, Mental Health and Chronic Disease Division, Department of Health and Ageing
- Mr Alan Singh, Assistant Secretary, Mental Health Taskforce, Mental Health and Chronic Disease Division, Department of Health and Ageing

- funding arrangements which support the inclusion of families in the care process especially in the area of conduct disorders which may then develop into behaviours which bring the individual into the juvenile justice system
- ways to make sure there are links between schools and service providers in the community especially given the shortage of school counsellors and school psychologists
- education and training for teachers about mental well-being and signs of mental ill-health, steps to take and referral pathways
- building a systematic approach to mental health into the school curriculum based on clear evidence
- support for interventions which take a universal approach and encourage a broad idea of success beyond academic achievement coupled with initiatives to address more serious problems which may cause contact with police and criminal justice system.

CHILDREN

Professors Oberklaid and Littlefield discussed the paper developed by their subgroup. They emphasised that prevention is central and that it requires substantial investment to build capacity in this area. The difficulty is that such activity and investment may be invisible unlike direct service delivery interventions. Professor Oberklaid highlighted the need for there to be a seamless referral process from primary through to tertiary prevention. There is clear evidence that the antecedents of mental ill health and approaches in this area depend not just on the individual child but must involve the family and schools and link to the broader early childhood agenda.

Professor Oberklaid also stressed the need to get messages about children's emotional and social wellbeing right, and to find the right language in which to talk about these issues, rather than resorting to use of mental illness/mental health terminology.

Members discussed the issues raised in the paper and by the subgroup. Issues covered included:

- mapping services currently available as the starting point and the basis to build new models
- ways to build a system which provides responsive and seamless services to the child and family with appropriate referral pathways
- the need to identify and respond to emerging problems to limit their development in later childhood and youth
- ways to work effectively with parents
- the role of universal resilience building preschool programs which support social and emotional wellbeing (eg. Good Start)
- specialised early assessment, diagnostic tools, treatment and intervention initiatives
- the need for a national focus not just on activities in the education sector but programs which can be delivered by parents
- development of skills and knowledge in the workforce
- ways to systematise interventions and assessments, and points in the child/families lives
- need to ensure approaches to improving social and emotional wellbeing of children were not draconian or viewed as the result of poor parenting