



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4 MAY 2011

Budget meets commitments on community mental health but much more still needs to be done

"The State Budget meets the Baillieu Government's election commitments on community mental health and is most welcome but much more still needs to be done, says Dr Gerry Naughtin, Chief Executive of Victoria's largest non-government provider of community mental health services.

The budget commitment of \$105 million for mental health services is welcome and includes an important boost of \$50 million for community mental health said, Dr Gerry Naughtin, of Mind Australia.

"The Government has acted on its commitments in the budget and we congratulate Minister Wooldridge for achieving this outcome in a tight budgetary environment. We look forward to future state budgets doing more to address the significant unmet demand for community mental health services", said Naughtin.

"New funding for mental health has provided funding across each of the three components of the mental health system, acute services, community clinical services and community support services. The balance in this approach is strategic and sensible. Funding for new initiatives, Headspace, mental health services for gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgender young people, eating disorders and the housing initiatives are well targeted and much needed.", said Naughtin.

"Working with people to secure affordable housing, tackle addiction, find a job or develop relationship skills is where community mental health has a massive positive impact. The importance role of the community mental health sector has not been lost on the Victorian Government.", Dr Naughtin said.

For further information with Dr Gerry Naughtin please contact:

Robert Hilkes, Group Marketing Manager, Mind: 9455 7934 or 0413 338 144

About Mind Australia

Mind Australia is the largest non-government provider of mental health services in Victoria. Mind Australia has been operating in Victoria for more than 30 years and has more than 400 staff across Victoria and South Australia.

Mind Australia annually supports 4,500 through their personal experience of mental illness. Mind offers community based, tailored services for clients and their carers to help them to achieve their goals and manage their illness.

Central Office

86-92 Mount Street
PO Box 592
Heidelberg, Vic 3084

p 03 9455 7900

f 03 9455 7999

e info@mindaustralia.org.au

www.mindaustralia.org.au