

## Media statement

15 April 2015

### Queensland calls for release of National Mental Health Commission report

Queensland Mental Health Commissioner Dr Lesley van Schoubroeck has welcomed recommendations by the National Mental Health Commission to “rebalance” funding towards community-based prevention and early intervention services.

“This shouldn’t be done by taking money out of the existing system but growth must be directed towards the community sector, and to local communities and to programs in schools, housing and justice to sustain and improve mental health and wellbeing.”

Dr van Schoubroeck said it was important for the community to now see the full details behind the recommendations and said she looked forward to the Federal Government’s release of the NMHC report and its response.

“The Commission has heard from many families who are frustrated by being kept waiting, by being ignored,” she said.

“While we must not overlook the many people in the mental health system who are doing a great job, too many families are feeling ignored and seeing their loved ones sidelined by busy hospital-based services.”

The Queensland Mental Health Commission last year released the *Queensland Mental Health Strategic Plan 2014-2019* which outlines a new vision for mental health.

Dr van Schoubroeck said: “We also need to take a fresh look at the Mental Health Bill, drafted last year, to make sure that it is strong enough to protect the rights of individuals and families, as well as giving an appropriate level of external oversight for people who are treated under Mental Health legislation.

“The Commission is currently leading the development of a Suicide Prevention Plan that will look at what Queensland can do to prevent the impact of suicide. It would be helpful to know what the Commonwealth was going to do at the same time.”

Members of the public are welcome to join a free Public Conversation about mental health and wellbeing tonight with international wellbeing expert **Gregor Henderson** and **CEO of Sane Australia Jack Heath**.

WHEN: **6.30pm**

WHERE: **Ithaca Auditorium, Brisbane City Hall**

ENDS

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