



## PRIORITY 3

### Participation in the community

*Build capacity to assist and support people with mental illness to live full and meaningful lives in the community*

#### Key actions

- Increase access to non-clinical recovery-focused services delivered through the non-government sector
- Expand access to supported housing and accommodation services for people with mental illness
- Increase capacity of Government agencies to support recovery of people with mental illness across a range of services

People living with mental illness require a range of services to strengthen their community engagement and improve quality of life. Stable housing, income support, education and employment are all vital for recovery, and require access to a range of government and non-government services.

The non-government and community sectors have a key role in providing non-clinical, personal care and other flexible supports to people living with mental illness, families and carers. Close partnerships will be required between Queensland Health, Disability Services Queensland and other government agencies, to ensure availability of the range of services required by people with mental illness within the community.

#### Actions for 2007-11

An additional \$98.09 million will be provided over four years to develop and implement programs that will increase access to community based services. These include:

#### Accommodation and personal support

The Queensland Government will expand the continuum of supported housing and accommodation available to people with mental illness in the community. Disability Services Queensland will purchase non-government sector

services to provide non-clinical personal support and accommodation to mental health consumers and their families. Initiatives include:

- \$35.64 million to purchase a range of accommodation and personal support services, including:
  - new residential recovery places to provide ongoing assessment, treatment and rehabilitation with the goal of assisting people to live successfully in the community
  - additional personal support packages to provide non-clinical support to people with varying levels of psychiatric disability living in the community in hostels, boarding houses, or in their own homes.
  - Additional places for consumer operated crisis and respite services to provide short-term accommodation, up to a maximum of three months, for those in need of respite, or emergency and crisis support.
  - Non-clinical personal support for people with a mental illness transitioning from corrective facilities to accommodation in the community.
- The Department of Housing, Disability Services Queensland and Queensland Health will expand the Housing and Support Program:
  - \$40 million to provide additional housing places for people with a severe mental illness who have moderate to high support needs. Eligibility criteria

will require the person to be homeless or in acute or extended treatment facilities, eligible for social housing and unable to maintain current housing arrangements without adequate support.

- \$22.45 million to provide non-clinical personal support to people with a severe mental illness who have moderate to high support needs and are living in social housing. Personal support services may include assistance with activities of daily living and practical support to access programs and services, which help to maintain optimal mental health functioning and promote recovery.

#### **Vocational rehabilitation**

The Queensland Government will support the implementation of initiatives to improve the engagement of people with a mental illness in vocational rehabilitation and employment, including:

- developing, implementing and evaluating a model of vocational rehabilitation which collocates an employment specialist within a mental health service
- establishing initiatives to foster the increased involvement of people with a mental illness in training, educational and employment readiness opportunities
- collaborating with non-government sector organisations to develop and provide a range of consumer-run vocational rehabilitation programs.

“ *People living with mental illness need a range of services to strengthen their community engagement and improve quality of life.* ”

#### **Interagency coordination**

The Queensland Government will support cross-sector collaboration to:

- develop and implement a strategic plan for the mental health non-government sector in Queensland, which enhances workforce capacity and infrastructure, service quality and review, and research, evaluation and outcome reporting
- develop and implement local cross-agency operational protocols and guidelines; local partnership agreements; and cross-agency education and professional development initiatives
- continue to implement and develop the Mental Health Intervention Program to improve collaborative responses between the Queensland Police Service, Emergency Services and public mental health services.

#### **Outcomes by 2011**

Investment of funds will improve the range of care and support for consumers living in the community. By 2011, the Queensland Government will have delivered the following outcomes:

- provided and maintained an expanded range of non-clinical personal support and accommodation aimed at assisting people with a mental illness to live a meaningful life in the community
- improved inter-sectoral collaboration in the delivery of programs to assist people with a mental illness to live and participate in the community.



### Outcomes by 2017

By 2017, the Queensland Government will have:

- strengthened the capacity of non-government organisations to deliver a range of quality mental health services that promote recovery
- expanded the range of community-based supported housing and accommodation options for people with mental illness
- expanded non-government sector services for consumers, carers and families
- strengthened non-government capacity and government services in the criminal justice system
- increased vocational rehabilitation for people with mental illness
- improved access to education, training and employment opportunities for people with mental illness
- increased understanding of mental illness in non-government and government employees
- expanded mental health initiatives for police, mental health and emergency services.
- expanded cross-government capacity to provide a coordinated statewide mental health and psychosocial disaster response and enhanced participation in the community recovery response.
- improved the capacity of the non-government sector to deliver a range of mental health services in the community, towards a ten year target rate of:
  - 15 places per 100,000 population for residential recovery programs
  - 35 places per 100,000 population for supported social housing
  - 35 packages per 100,000 population for support to people with a mental illness living in hostels and private homes
  - 3 places per 100,000 population for crisis and respite services.

“ *The Queensland Government will expand the continuum of supported housing and accommodation available to people with mental illness in the community.* ”





### Like a copy of the Plan?

Copies of the *Queensland Plan for Mental Health 2007–2017* are available:

- electronically from Queensland Health's website [www.health.qld.gov.au/mentalhealth](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/mentalhealth)
- or you can order hard copies online from the Queensland Government Bookshop at [www.bookshop.qld.gov.au](http://www.bookshop.qld.gov.au)