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MEDIA STATEMENT

ACMHN welcomes government funding announcement for people experiencing eating disorders

The Australian College of Mental Health Nurses (ACMHN) welcomes the announcement by Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt to improve access to treatment and support for more than 1 million Australians living with eating disorders.

The $3 million boost in funding is a commitment made by the government to support more than 75 percent Australians living with eating disorders who are currently not receiving required treatment.

ACMHN CEO Kim Ryan welcomes the funding announcement by the government and encourages every effort to prevent the severity and impact of eating disorders.

‘People experiencing an eating disorder needs to obtain a multi-disciplinary approach to care, taking into account both their mental and physical health needs. However, the availability of these services is limited, and funding mechanisms are not inclined to support this approach at the level of intensity required to achieve and sustain recovery’, Ms Ryan said.

The additional $1.2 million funding for a training program for healthcare workers like GPs and nurses reiterates ACMHN’s position that the fundamentals of a robust workforce through upskilling will help improve community access to the multidisciplinary service model that is considered to be the ‘gold star’ of eating disorder treatment.

The ACMHN has provided information to the Commonwealth Department of Health regarding treatment available to people experiencing eating disorders particularly for those diagnosed with anorexia, which carries the highest rate of suicide of all mental illnesses.

ACMHN welcomes opportunities to continue working with the government, Butterfly Foundation, National Eating Disorders Collaboration and mental health sector in pursuit of this goal.

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Available for interview or comment ACMHN CEO Adjunct Professor Kim Ryan

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