29 March 2018

MEDIA STATEMENT

ACMHN welcomes mental health outreach service for regional and remote Australia

The Australian College of Mental Health Nurses (ACMHN) welcomes the announcement by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull providing an $84 million funding boost for a new mental health outreach service for regional and remote Australia.

The new mental health outreach program will be established by the Royal Flying Doctor Service to set up remote mental health clinics alongside provision for dental care and emergency services.

Chief Executive of the ACMHN, Adjunct Associate Professor Kim Ryan, says this provides an opportunity to explore models of care such as mental health nurse-led clinics and mobile outreach programs to enable mental health nurses to offer effective and innovative ways of improving access to mental health care in rural and remote Australia.

“This presents a valuable opportunity to improve access to mental health care for the one-third of Australia’s population living in regional, rural and remote areas,” Ms. Ryan said.

Mental health is a human right and everyone, no matter where they live should have access safe, quality and affordable mental health care.

The ACMHN is pleased that more people living in rural and remote areas will have access to mental health services - particularly following a report by National Rural Health Alliance stating people living in rural and remote areas receive 40 percent less mental health services than their city counterparts.

The ACMHN is keen to work with the RFDS in accessing mental health nurses for the much needed initiative.

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Available for interview or comment ACMHN CEO Adjunct Professor Kim Ryan

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