8 October 2018

MEDIA STATEMENT
ACMHN Welcomes the Independent Inquiry into Mental Health Announcement

The Australian College of Mental Health Nurses supports the government’s announcement yesterday to establish an independent Productivity Commission inquiry into mental health spending.

The aim of the Productivity Commission is to investigate the impact of mental health on the Australian economy and identify the ways workplaces can better support people living with mental health conditions.

A report published by the National Mental Health Commission shows that although the total government direct expenditure on mental health in Australia has grown substantially over the last 20 years, the prevalence of mental illness has barely changed over the same period.

ACMHN CEO, Adjunct Associate Professor Kim Ryan said “$9 billion dollars a year may seem a lot, but given the burden of disease we need to ascertain if this is enough and if our investment is in the right place.”

“Social participation is vital to achieve the best possible mental health which will require investment in education, housing, employment, justice, human services and social support”, said Ms. Ryan.

All aspects of investments, from Commonwealth and State and Territory need to be considered to ensure the inquiry disclose the impact of mental illness on Australia’s economy and provide recommendations to deliver the best outcomes.

The College is keen to work with the Productivity Commission inquiry to tackle a long overdue issue and to plan for the best mental health of our community in the near future.

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Available for interview or comment ACMHN CEO Adjunct Associate Professor Kim Ryan

Media Enquiries:
Sharina Smith
E: communications@acmhn.org
Ph: 6285 1078