MEDIA RELEASE

Riding to raise awareness of schizophrenia

Ten staff and supporters from ROAM Communities will ride from Canberra to Camden in March 2014 to raise awareness of schizophrenia.

“The inaugural ROAM Communities’ Schizophrenia Awareness Ride will breakdown common stigmas associated with this illness, highlight that recovery from the illness is possible, and raise funds to support recovery from schizophrenia in the community”, said Mathew James, General Manager of ROAM Communities.

The Schizophrenia Awareness Ride will leave Canberra from the 7th Primary Mental Health Care Conference on 21 March at the Rex Hotel and arrive three days later, to a reception held in Camden.

Schizophrenia is a serious mental illness that affects approximately 1% of both the Australian and global population. It is a form of psychotic disorder, which means people have problems interpreting reality. This results in changes to a persons thinking, perceptions and behaviours.

The statistics are confronting:

- People living with schizophrenia have a life expectancy 25 years lower than the general population.
- Four out of every five Australian adults with schizophrenia are unemployed.
- Australians with schizophrenia have more than three times the chance of becoming homeless on comparison to the general population.

“The good news is that with the right treatment people living with schizophrenia can recover”, Mr James said.

Based at the mental health recovery institute in Camden, South West Sydney, ROAM Communities provides over 2000 sessions of mobile and centre based psychiatry annually to people with Schizophrenia and other severe mental illness throughout the South West Sydney region.

To find out more, or sponsor the ride, contact ROAM Communities www.roamcommunities.org.au.

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