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MEDIA RELEASE

Minister for Mental Health a promising start

Mental Health Nurses welcomed the appointment of a Minister for Mental Health in the Gillard ministry.

‘This is a promising start to Julia Gillard’s election campaign commitment that mental health will be a priority for her government,’ said Peter Santangelo, President of the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses.

‘We look forward to working with Mark Butler to address the important issues of stigma and discrimination, mental health promotion, and delivering services that provide people with the right help at the right time,’ Mr Santangelo said.

Mental Health Nurses are the core of the mental health workforce. There are around 15,000 nurses providing holistic and collaborative care to people with mental health issues across the country.

‘Mental health nurses must be part of the process to improve mental health care,’ said Kim Ryan, CEO of the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses.

‘The government must recognise that without significant investment in the mental health workforce, particularly mental health nurses, there can be no improvement in mental health care,’ said Ms Ryan.

The Australian College of Mental Health Nurses released an election statement calling on all political parties to ensure all Australians have access to mental health care provided by specialist mental health nurses.

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