MEDIA RELEASE

Standards ensure quality care for people with mental health issues

New Mental Health Nursing Standards of Practice will ensure that people with mental health issues receive high quality nursing care across Australia.

The Standards of Practice will be launched at the International Mental Health Nursing Conference in Hobart on Tuesday 31 August by the Tasmanian Minister for Health, Michelle O’Byrne MP.

‘We are very excited to be able to release contemporary Standards of Practice which will guide all nurses working in mental health services to deliver collaborative, evidenced based, recovery focussed care to consumers,’ said Peter Santangelo, President of the ACMHN.

‘Currently nursing students can graduate from university and start work in a mental health service with less experience than you need to learn to drive a car. This is woefully inadequate preparation,’ said Kim Ryan, CEO of the ACMHN.

‘This highlights the inequitable treatment of people with mental health issues by the health system.’

The College will lobby employers, governments, educators and regulators to adopt the Standards and enhance the quality of care for consumers.

The ACMHN International Mental Health Nursing conference is the preeminent conference for mental health nurses from across Australia. Nurses working in remote parts of Australia, in major metropolitan hospitals, with bushfire affected communities will learn about innovative projects, clinical developments and research that can make a difference to the lives of people with mental health issues.

The conference program includes:

- An Oration by Professor David Adams, Tasmanian Social Inclusion Commissioner on ‘Social Inclusion – resourceful and resilient communities or another candle in the wind?’
- Mental Health Nurse of the Year Award presented by Mrs Heloise Waislitz, Chair of the Pratt Foundation and College Patron.
- Keynote address from Australian of the Year, Patrick McGorry.

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