MEDIA RELEASE

The Australian College of Mental Health Nurses congratulates Julia Gillard on becoming Prime Minister

The Australian College of Mental Health Nurses congratulates Julia Gillard on becoming Australia’s first female Prime Minister.

ACMHN CEO Kim Ryan said, ‘the change in leadership represents an opportunity for the government to take a fresh approach to the issues surrounding mental health reform.’

The mental health system is in crisis. For months the College and other mental health leaders have argued for urgent action and a significant investment in the sector. The response by the Rudd led government was inadequate.

The ACMHN calls on the Gillard led government to increase the investment in and support for the mental health sector. People with mental health problems have as much right to specialist mental health care, as people with illnesses such as cancer have to specialist cancer treatment.

‘I urge Julia Gillard listen to the Australian community and work closely with the sector to ensure all Australians who need it have access to high quality mental health care. Mental health nurses must be part of the solution’, says CEO, Kim Ryan.

Ms Ryan went on to comment, ‘I look forward to seeing Ms Gillard’s leadership in action in the area of mental health. Her father, John Gillard, was a psychiatric/mental health nurse and I hope this will provide the Prime Minister with greater insight into the challenges and needs of Australians experiencing mental health problems’.

**Media contact:** Kim Ryan, CEO Australian College of Mental Health Nurses
0417 289 189