MEDIA RELEASE

Opposition investment in mental health will have winners and losers

The Australian College of Mental Health Nurses welcomes the Liberal commitment to mental health.

“An injection of this level of funding will help many Australian families whose young people are experiencing mental health problems. I applaud Mr Abbott for recognising the need for investment in early intervention services for young people.” says ACMHN CEO, Ms Kim Ryan.

But mental health problems affect the whole population, not just those under 25. There are people who battle to access services for their mental illness right now. They and their carers need more than an investment in early intervention youth services.

The Opposition has ignored the other faces of mental illness - people who struggle with drug and alcohol problems, people who are homeless, older Australians with mental illness.

The Australian College of Mental Health Nurses supports mental health reform based on the recommendations of the National Hospital and Health Reform Commissions’ report.

The Opposition investment in mental health also comes at the price of several key health reform planks.

‘For many Australians with mental illness, their GP is the gateway to all mental health services. Reducing access to after hours GPs will just increase the pressure on emergency departments – from people with physical illnesses and those with mental illness.’

‘I call on Mr Abbott and Ms Gillard to stop picking vote winners and make a comprehensive investment mental health that improves access for all – not some.’

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