

## **\$53.1 million boost for mental health services**

ACT Labor has today unveiled its plan to further boost mental health services across the ACT by an additional \$53.1 million which will provide expanded community based mental health services, more staff for our new suite of facilities and a Charter of Rights for Mental Health Consumers.

“The additional \$53 million will go to establishing new services, increasing the capacity of current services and funding the operational costs of the new mental health facilities due to open in early 2011,” Ms Gallagher said.

“The commitments made today are all about meeting current demands and preparing for the future. ACT Labor understands the challenges ahead in mental health and we have a plan on how to meet those challenges.” Ms Gallagher said.

Today’s announcement includes:

- \$14.5 million over four years equalling 30% of new money to provide for increased capacity for community based services.
- \$10.7 million over four years to staff a new mental health assessment unit, will be operational in 2009, that will provide quicker transfer to appropriate care for mental health clients who present at the emergency department.
- \$10.4 million to staff the new 40-bed state-of-the-art mental health inpatient facility will be operational by early 2011.
- \$17.4 to staff the new secure mental health facility to meet the needs of forensic and non-forensic consumers of mental health services.
- Establish, in legislation, a Ministerial Council on Mental Health to ensure consumers of mental health services, carers and the non-government sector are able to provide continuous advice and direction to Government on mental health policy and services.
- Develop a Charter of Rights for Mental Health Consumers.

“These announcements today will see the mental health budget continue to grow towards our aspirational target of 12% of the health budget. It also ensures that 30% of the new funding will go to community based services and that we continue to focus on increasing the capacity of our non-government partners in providing services in the community.” Ms Gallagher said.

“This mental health package announced today forms part of the \$1 billion plan that ACT Labor has announced to rebuild our health system and prepare for the our community’s health needs of the future.” Ms. Gallagher concluded.

Statement Ends

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