



Australian Government

Department of Health and Ageing

Overview of Department of Health and Ageing mental health programs & opportunities for better collaboration with social workers and occupational therapists

Consultation forum - 24 June 2010

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Today presents...

1. An opportunity for Government to hear about and understand experiences of social workers and OTs in providing mental health care.
2. An opportunity to discuss Government mental health programs and priorities and funding arrangements.
3. An opportunity to have further discussions about the role of social workers and OTs in a range of other programs.
4. An opportunity to explore mechanisms for further consultation.



At the end of today:

- We will have a good understanding of the roles, skills, expertise, experience and innovation in social worker and OT practice.
- We will all have a greater understanding of the programs and funding arrangements available to assist in delivering good outcomes for those with mental health issues.
- You will know what is to happen with your feedback.
- We will have a program of /mechanisms for further consultation.



Mental Health and Chronic Disease Division: Who are we?

Our Division works to:

- build the capacity of the mental health system to ensure that Australians with mental illness, and their families and carers, have access to quality health and support services to meet their needs;
- support the improved management, prevention and monitoring of chronic disease;
- provide advice in cancer control issues and managing specific cancer initiatives; and
- reduce the health impacts of substance abuse.



Mental Health Branches

- Two Mental Health Branches in the Division.
- Assistant Secretary of the Mental Health Reform Branch is Virginia Hart.
- Assistant Secretary of the Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Programs Branch is Colleen Krestensen.



What do we do?

Mental Health Programs

The Australian Government funds a range of programs which the Division administers including:

- Better Access initiative
- Mental Health Services in Rural and Remote Areas program
- Access to Allied Psychological Services Program
- headspace
- Drought and bushfires measures
- Telephone and web based programs
- EPPIC expansion



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