National Mental Health Commission

Professor Allan Fels, Chair
Regional and remote Australia health disparities

On average:

• Lower life expectancy
• Higher mortality rates
• Higher rates of disease and injury, including mental illness and deaths from suicide
• Inequitable access to the right health services, including Medicare-funded services
• Reduced and transient health workforce distribution
• Especially for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in these areas
### Employed (FTE) GPs, psychiatrists, psychologists and mental health nurses, by remoteness, 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Major cities</th>
<th>Inner regional</th>
<th>Outer regional</th>
<th>Remote and Very remote</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FTE general practitioners</td>
<td>108.2</td>
<td>117.8</td>
<td>123.0</td>
<td>124.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FTE psychiatrists</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FTE mental health nurses</td>
<td>86.3</td>
<td>79.5</td>
<td>51.5</td>
<td>47.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FTE psychologists</td>
<td>57.2</td>
<td>44.7</td>
<td>34.3</td>
<td>44.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- FTE general practitioners per 100,000 population
- FTE psychiatrists per 100,000 population
- FTE mental health nurses per 100,000 population
- FTE psychologists per 100,000 population
Economic impacts

TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT OF MENTAL HEALTH IN AUSTRALIA

$40 bn

Commonwealth costs

$9.6 bn

Lost productivity

$12 bn

Estimated indirect costs

$14.5 bn

State and Territory costs

$4.5 bn

Commonwealth expenditure on mental health 2012–13

$9.6 billion

48.8%

Disability Support Pension (DSP)

$4.678.3 million

35.6% since 2008–09

National Agreements—NHCA/NHRA

$1,024.9 million

13.3% since 2008–09

Carer Payment and Allowance

$999.1 million

25.2% since 2008–09

Medicare Benefits Schedule

$907.9 million

21.3% since 2008–09

Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme

$366.1 million

7.6% decrease since 2008–09

Other (11 programmes)

$1.2 billion

12.5%
Annual distribution of mental ill-health in Australia

- Mild-moderate (anxiety, depression etc) - 3 million people
- Severe episodic/severe and persistent complex and chronic illness (schizophrenia, bipolar, eating disorders, severe depression etc) - 625,000 people
- Severe and persistent/complex multiagency needs psychosocial disability - 65,000 people
Design of a person-centred approach
MOST IMPORTANTLY....

Working together to enable: CONTRIBUTING LIVES, THRIVING COMMUNITIES