



MEDIA RELEASE

Government's Advisory Council will enhance mental health reform

12 June 2008

A new National Advisory Council on Mental Health, announced today by Health Minister Nicola Roxon, will bring a range of expertise to government policy and decision making.

Fulfilling an election commitment, Minister Roxon announced the formation of a Mental Health Advisory Council at the annual Grace Groom Memorial lecture at the National Press Club in Canberra.

The Mental Health Advisory Council will comprise a number of experts, consumers and carers, including current MHCA CEO, Mr David Crosbie, and former CEO Mr John Mendoza, Professor Ian Hickie and Ms Dawn O'Neil, MHCA Deputy Chair and CEO of Lifeline.

"The Advisory Council will complement the role of the MHCA by providing a range of independent and confidential advice to the Government. We welcome any opportunity to bring the voices of carers, consumers, researcher and other experts into the national mental health policy making process." said David Crosbie.

"The MHCA's role as the peak body advocating on behalf of the mental health sector will not change, but we now have a group of experts and consumers who can deliver independent confidential advice directly to the Minister."

Media Contact: Simon Tatz on 0402 613 745 or 02 6285 3100

The Mental Health Council of Australia is the independent, national representative body of the mental health sector in Australia.
Ph:(02) 6285 3100 Fax:(02) 6285 2166 E-mail: admin@mhca.org.au www.mhca.org.au