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MINISTER FOR HEALTH

ATTORNEY GENERAL: ELECTORAL AFFAIRS

Ms Karin MacDonald MLA
Chair
Standing Committee on Health and Disability
Legislative Assembly for the ACT
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 A.C.T. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE OFFICE	
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Dear Ms MacDonald

Thank you for your letter dated 15 September 2005 concerning housing programs for people living with mental illness.

In Western Australia supported community accommodation services are primarily provided by the non-government sector. People aged 18 years and over with a severe and persistent mental illness are eligible for these services. Young people aged 16 years and over, at risk of developing a mental illness and homelessness, are also eligible for some supported accommodation services.

Services funded by the Western Australian Department of Health

The Department of Health currently funds 1,349 beds for people with a mental illness in a range of supported accommodation including:

Crisis/respite accommodation - 28 beds

Two non-government organisations (NGOs) provide crisis/respite accommodation services at four sites in the Perth metropolitan area. One NGO provides crisis/respite accommodation services in Geraldton (approximately 400km north of Perth).

Crisis/respite accommodation services provide short-term accommodation for people in need of respite. Assistance is also provided to those who are experiencing a non-clinical emergency or crisis and require temporary substitutive care until they are in a position to return home or establish a new household. Staff are located on site with support provided 24 hours a day.

Intermediate care accommodation (transitional supported accommodation) – 26 beds
One NGO provides intermediate care accommodation at three sites in the metropolitan area.

Intermediate care accommodation services provide short to medium term accommodation for clients of public mental health services. These services are for people who require short-stay support to overcome non-acute clinical and disability impairment associated with mental illness. The aim is for clients to move towards independent living and/or towards returning home. Staff are located on site with support provided 24 hours a day.

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Independent Living Program (ILP) - 665 beds

Twelve NGOs provide supportive landlord services to properties with a total of 665 beds across Western Australia.

The ILP has been operating since 1996 and is a partnership program facilitated by the Department of Health (Office of Mental Health) and the Department of Housing and Works. This statewide program places people with a diagnosed mental illness, in appropriate accommodation and supports them by coordinating a range of services to enable independent living. These services include supportive landlord services, disability support, mental health case management and clinical services.

Long-term supported accommodation – 12 beds

One NGO provides long-term supported accommodation at a single metropolitan site.

This long-term supported accommodation service provides permanent long-term accommodation in a community-based home like environment for consumers with high support needs. Staff are located on site with support provided 24 hours a day.

Licensed psychiatric hostels – 596 beds

There are 23 licensed psychiatric hostels, operated by 14 service providers, in the metropolitan area.

Hostels provide residential care to mental health consumers who, because of their illness, require low to medium level staff support to assist with their personal care needs. Staff are located on site with support provided 24 hours a day. Through the Western Australian *Mental Health Strategy 2004–2007* additional funding will be allowed to improve the quality of personal care services provided to hostel residents.

Specialist residential services – 22 beds

Two NGOs provide specialist residential services at three sites in the metropolitan area.

Specialist residential services provide permanent long-term accommodation to consumers who have very high dependency/complex needs and who require very high levels of staff support and care. Staff are located on site with support provided 24 hours a day. This includes extended care services for consumers who are adults or aged.

Western Australia's Mental Health Strategy 2004-2007

The *Mental Health Strategy 2004-2007* outlines key reforms, to address the most pressing areas of need within Western Australia's current mental health system. The Government of Western Australia has allocated \$173.4 million to enable implementation of the *Strategy*. Please find attached a *Mental Health Strategy 2004-2007* brochure for your information.

As part of the *Mental Health Strategy 2004–2007* the Office of Mental Health is undertaking a state-wide expansion of supported accommodation services for people with severe mental illness.

This initiative includes the:

- Improvement of service quality for licensed psychiatric hostel residents;
- development of Community Supported Accommodation Units (CSRUs);
- Community Options 100 Project;
- Supported Accommodation for Homeless People service; and
- continued annual expansion of the Independent Living Program, at the rate of 60 properties a year.

Community Supported Residential Units

CSRUs will be constructed in several metropolitan and rural locations and provide a total of 200 beds. There will be six CSRUs in the metropolitan area and four in rural areas.

The planned CSRUs will provide long-term accommodation for residents with 24-hour on-site staff support and personal care assistance. Personal care, provided to residents, will include assistance with meals, financial management and physical needs. The service will also encourage and support residents to integrate and participate in the community, including providing access to services, facilities and recreational pursuits.

The CSRUs are currently being developed and will be available in 2006/2007. Referral to this service may occur through any public mental health service.

Community Options 100

The Community Options 100 Project will establish community based, supported accommodation options for people with a very serious and chronic psychiatric disability currently residing in Graylands Hospital (tertiary mental health facility).

A total of eight group homes will be built, housing three to five residents in each, in four metropolitan locations. The first two group homes are anticipated to be ready for occupation in late 2006 with the remaining group homes progressively becoming available through to mid 2007.

Supported Accommodation for Homeless People

The Supported Accommodation for Homeless People service will operate in Perth and Fremantle and will provide a continuum of services for 50 homeless people with a mental illness. The service will conduct assertive community in-reach, operate a drop-in centre and provide a supported accommodation service.

Referral to this service may occur through a general practitioner, private psychiatrist, public mental health service, other health professional and/or by self referral. This service is currently being developed.

Psychosocial Support Services - Independent Living Program (ILP)

There will be an expansion of statewide psychosocial support services to assist people to live in their homes. An additional 120 ILP housing units will be constructed and psychosocial support service for 10 young people will be developed.

Referral to the psychosocial support program can occur through a mental health service, general practitioner, private psychiatrist or other health professional.

Other Services

Supported Accommodation Assistance Program

Significant providers of mainstream crisis and transition accommodation are funded through the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP). In Western Australia the SAAP program is administered through the Department for Community Development. To ensure SAAP services interface effectively with public mental health services, the Office of Mental Health has established Protocols with SAAP providers. These Protocols detail the responsibility of SAAP providers and mental health services when people with mental illness are accommodated in SAAP services. The Office of Mental Health is currently reviewing these protocols.

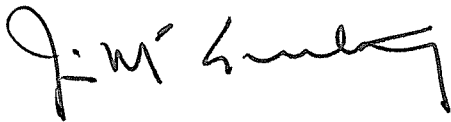
Disability Services

The Disability Services Commission funds a considerable range of accommodation types for people with a range of severe disabilities. Of those that are available for people with a mental illness, clients are primarily those with a dual diagnosis of both a mental illness and an intellectual disability.

Should you require additional information about accommodation services for people with a mental illness in Western Australia please contact Ms Vicki Caudwell, A/Manager Policy and Planning, Office of Mental Health on (08) 9222 2456 or by email vicki.caudwell@health.wa.gov.au.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



JIM MCGINTY MLA
MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Att:

24 OCT 2005