



**KEMPSEY**  
Shire Council

## **DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT**

12<sup>th</sup> December 2006

<b>DCCS5</b>	<b>HASTINGS MACLEAY NETWORK FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES</b>
	<b>FILE: 419 GRW (Folio 336712)</b>

### **SUMMARY:**

Reporting on advice received in relation to Council's concerns pertaining to mental health issues.



### **DESCRIPTION:**

At the ordinary Council Meeting of the Kempsey Shire Council held on 12 September 2006, Council resolved;

*"That appropriate representations be made to Messrs Mark Vale MP Member for Lyne, Luke Hartsuyker MP, Member for Cowper, Andrew Stoner MP, Member for Oxley, and Rob Oakeshott MP, Member for Port Macquarie, to ensure adequate funding is provided for the North Coast Area Health Service and in particular the Hastings Macleay Network for Mental Health Services".*

A letter was written to Andrew Stoner MP, Member for Oxley on 19 September 2006 conveying Council's resolution. On 23 November 2006 Andrew Stoner MP forwarded a letter to Council, received from Paul McLeay MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Health, in response to Council's concerns. [\(Appendix C\)](#)

Paul McLeay MP advised that the Hastings Macleay Network has a full time Suicide Prevention Coordinator who provides education for staff working at hospitals and within the community.

He advised that further responsibility for mental health programs for children and adolescents lies with the School Link initiative. School Link provides a framework for programs to improve the understanding, recognition, treatment, support and prevention of depression and related disorders in adolescents, particularly those attending State secondary schools.

Other initiatives included;

- Mental Health package of \$3 million to deliver better hospital and community services to the North Coast Health Service
- \$2.43 million to expand and upgrade the 10 bed voluntary Mental Health Unit at Port Macquarie
- A \$400,000 package to provide seven additional community mental health staff

- Recurrent funding for the Family Sensitive Area Health Service
- Expansion of the Mental Health Emergency Care Project to cover shifts from 3.00pm to 11.00pm 7 days per week.

Council is urged to contact Mr Robert Wilson, Integrated Network Manager Mental Health Services, North Coast Area Health Service, should they require further information on any of the above initiatives.

## **REPORT IMPLICATIONS:**

### ▪ *Environmental*

*There are no environmental implications arising from this report.*

### ▪ *Social*

*The initiatives announced by the NSW Minister for Health will assist and enhance the ability of Mental Health Services in the Macleay/Hastings to provide an early response to identified mental illness which may prevent an escalation to a more chronic mental health problem.*

### ▪ *Policy or Statutory*

*There are no policy or statutory implications arising from this report.*

### ▪ *Directors Review*

*Nil.*

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the information be noted.**

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**G B Snape**  
**DIRECTOR CORPORATE & COMMUNITY SERVICES**