



KEMPSEY
Shire Council

DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

16th January 2007

DCCS7	HASTINGS MACLEAY NETWORK FOR MENTAL HEALTH FILE: 419 JLM (Folio 338378)
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SUMMARY:

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



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

"That appropriate representations be made 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."

Letters to the abovenamed conveying Councils resolutions were forwarded on 19th September 2006.

The response from Andrew Stoner MP was submitted to the 12th December 2006 meeting of Council.

On 20th December 2006 Robert Oakeshott MP, forwarded a letter to Council, received from Paul McLeary MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Health, in response to Council's concerns. [\(Appendix C\)](#).

Paul McLeary MP advised that of interest to the Council is the recent announcement by the Minister of extra funding of \$2.4M for refurbishment of the Port Macquarie Base Hospital Mental Health Unit to provide 12 gazetted beds where involuntary patients will be able to access treatment from within the Hastings/Macleay Network.

Enhancement funding has been allocated to recruit additional Community Mental Health staff in the Macleay/Hastings area including:

- Three full time positions for Older Persons' Mental Health;
- One Project Officer, Mental Health Education and Training, to provide education and training to new and existing mental health staff in contemporary issues and current policies and protocols;
- Three additional positions for Acute Care to increase the capacity of the existing team to respond to acute mental health presentations;

- One Registered Nursing caring for children and adolescents with mental illness in in-patient units;
- One full time Child and Adolescent Mental Health Consultation Liaison Registered Nurse position; and
- One Community Rehabilitation Worker to implement the North Coast Clinical Rehabilitation Framework

In addition, Chris Crawford, Chief Executive, North Coast Area Health Service, advised that applications are currently being sought for two Aboriginal Health Education Officer Cadetships in Mental Health.

Three Health Service Assistants have recently been employed in the Hastings/Macleay Network to provide improved service in transporting patients to appropriate admission centres.

A new Family and Carers Mental Health Program is being implemented through Carers NSW to provide a comprehensive range of support services to families and carers of people with a mental illness.

Furthermore, Council was advised that counselling services and early intervention for young people with Mental Health issues are ongoing with the Youth and Family team who provide training for Mental Health and School Councillors. Funding support is available for the purchase of resources to run evidence-based programs in schools across a wide variety of programs.

Should Council require any further information regarding these initiatives, they should contact Mr Robert Wilson, Integrated Network Manager Hastings Macleay Mental Health.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental***

Nil

- ***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.

- ***Economic (Financial)***

Nil

- ***Policy or Statutory***

Nil

- ***Director's Review***

The information is noted.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be noted.

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G B Snape
DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES