

Working Together for Mental Health – Cross Government and Cross Sector Approaches

7 August 2003

Mental Health and Mid to Longer Term Housing System Issues

It is important to build successful tenancies and communities with support and early intervention.

Group Recommendations:

1. To ensure that the statement that NGOs will be invited to join the new JGOs is followed through by the Department of Housing and that the JGOs are reviewed to consider SAAP and aboriginal needs.
2. That the Housing and Accommodation Support Initiative is expanded across NSW.
3. Housing must consider the impact of periods of hospitalization for people with mental health issues when doing any policy and planning.
4. That a model based on the St George Housing Association is considered as a housing option, this includes flexible service delivery with a range of programs and levels of support based on the individual's needs.
5. There needs to be better coordination between different types of programs, such as the boarding house program and mental health teams.
6. In any funding agreement there need not be a consideration for the real cost of housing management and support, the service is more than a landlord.
7. Department of Housing to follow through on the statement that the use of the screening tool (Independent Living Skills Form) will be reviewed and any findings should be made public.
8. There needs to be further research and evaluation of the various housing projects that are being funded to obtain good data on what works.
9. There needs to be an evaluation of the lack of affordable housing.
10. Planning needs to be done for the housing needs of older people with mental health issues.