

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

## **7 August 2003**

### ***Mental Health and Intellectual Disability***

The very high incidence of mental health problems of people with a disability are not reflected in the availability and skills of mental health services.

#### *Group Recommendations:*

1. Need for clear and public protocols between disability services, mental health services, Home and Community Care and Corrective Services, with accountability mechanisms in place for implementation.
2. Develop skills of mental health workers in disability services and disability workers in mental health services.
3. Establish a statewide network of psychiatrists with expertise in intellectual disability.
4. Need for supported accommodation and intensive support for people with a dual diagnosis.

#### *Individual Recommendations from Discussion Sheets:*

1. Increased need for a targeted cross Government approach: NSW Health – mental health issues; Housing – Accommodation and DADHC – disability support and behaviour programs
2. Let agencies pilot a joint intake and assessment team that includes Health and DADHC.
3. Disability services need to develop and implement a framework to respond to clients in crisis (i.e. homeless). Current response is too slow, for example it can take up to a month to get assessment and case management.
4. Directions need to be set in regards to cooperation between services.
5. Information on referral points needs to be made available to services.