

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

## **7 August 2003**

### ***Mental Health and Justice Issues***

Substance abuse needs to be acknowledged as more than a life style choice and underlying mental health issues should be considered.

#### *Group Recommendations:*

1. There needs to be better access to and support from mental health agencies and other support services when engaging with consumers presenting with aggressive behaviours
2. Greater input must be sought from consumers, by the Government and Non-Government sector, to encourage the development of consumer appropriate services.
3. Procedures need to be developed and implemented for improved liaison between Corrections Health and external health providers (Government and NGO) in order to promote a continuum of health provision. For example people being released from courts/prisons without continued medication.
4. Additional funding and resources are needed to implement the Court Liaison program to other courts and the inclusion of increased access for people with intellectual disabilities.
5. Increased funding and resources for the provision of adequate supported accommodation for people post-release.

#### *Individual Recommendations:*

1. GROW groups should be available in prison.