

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

7 August 2003

Mental Health and SAAP

A large number of SAAP clients have mental health issues that are negatively impacting on their ability to access and maintain independent living. This includes those that are diagnosed and those that are not diagnosed or diagnosable.

Group Recommendations:

1. Need for recognition, and resources, for mental health services to be able to respond to and support clients.
2. Additional funding and resources for SAAP services, from the Department of Community Services, to be able to work with existing and future clients and to conduct outreach work.
3. Innovative services models between SAAP and mental health should be funded and resourced on an ongoing basis by the Department of Community Services and NSW Health.
4. Consideration should be given to the separation of housing and support services, however further consultation will need to be held as there are service viability issues for some SAAP services.

Individual Recommendations from Discussion Sheets:

1. There needs to be coordinated actions to address the needs of people with a mental illness and/or a disability and/or from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds accessing SAAP services.
2. SAAP staff should be trained in CALD, disability and mental health awareness.
3. The Government and Department of Community services need to provide greater financial support to SAAP services as often clients with mental health issues are in need of ongoing support and SAAP services are providing this with no funding.