

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

## **7 August 2003**

### ***Mental Health and Sexual Assault***

We have recognised the significant advances in our understanding of the inter-relationship of sexual assault and mental health over the last decade but there is still considerable work to be done.

#### *Group Recommendations:*

1. There needs to be recognition of the incidence of sexual assault occurring in In-Patient care and therefore funding and resources should be put into a separate system of accommodation for men and women.
2. Ongoing support and training of workers in the mental health care system and sexual assault care system.
3. Development of appropriate cross sector and Government policies to address the issues of sexual assault and mental health.
4. Investigate and promote the Canadian and South African systems of Non Retrauma care.
5. Support and expand the current consumer advocate system in mental health and introduce the same system into sexual assault services.
6. That victims of sexual assault are viewed as victims of crime.