



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## Media Release

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### **Windsor congratulates PM on mental health services commitment**

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor has welcomed the Prime Minister's announcement today that the Federal Government would contribute \$1.8 Billion to reforming the mental health system in Australia.

"The Prime Minister's lead and commitment of \$1.8 Billion to reforming the mental health system is to be congratulated and is very welcome.

The announcement recognises the great need for assistance for these vulnerable people in our community and will go a long way to addressing their needs and the needs of their families and carers.

Many people have worked very hard over many years to lift the awareness of the needs of the mentally ill.

These people are to be thanked and congratulated for their persistent efforts in achieving this very positive step in the process.

I'm sure these people will now redouble their efforts but focussed on working to help their loved ones to lead a fulfilling life through the help that will now become available to them as a result of the funding," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor said that the announcement by the Prime Minister today now needs to be backed up with a comprehensive plan to ensure that the funding achieves the desired outcomes.

"The funding support from the Federal Government whilst sizable, also needs to have a strong comprehensive plan for the implementation of the various forms of assistance to make sure that the funding delivers the desired outcomes for those members of our community suffering mental health problems.

I look forward to the release of the five year action plan that is currently being developed.

It will be important for this plan to provide strong leadership and direction and yet provide the flexibility to meet the needs of individuals," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor also urged State Governments to follow the Federal Government's commitment.

"The State Government's of Australia have a significant role to play in the delivery of mental health services and I urge each State to do their bit to help these people.

I look forward to their announcements in the near future," Mr Windsor said.

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