



**The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Sport**

Ref No:xxx

<Address>

Dear <name>,

On 1 May 2017 I wrote to you seeking advice on the status of community mental health (CMH) programs in <State/Territory>, including details of the mainstream psychological disability supports that will be continued outside of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), the program funding which will transition to the NDIS and whether it is anticipated that this may result in some people losing access to supports.

I am pleased to advise that the Australian Government, in the 2017-18 federal budget, has committed \$80 million over four years for CMH services to assist people with severe mental illness resulting in psychosocial disability who are not eligible for assistance through the NDIS. The purpose of this funding is to reduce the CMH service gap, improve mental health outcomes and reduce inequity in service availability— noting that states and territories retain primary responsibility for CMH services. Commonwealth funding will be delivered in jurisdictions where state and territory governments agree to contribute appropriate and proportional levels of funding to the measure, with contributions based on the CMH service arrangements in each jurisdiction. It is intended that this will secure a national approach to maintaining CMH services in the community.

I am now seeking your in-principle agreement to a national psychosocial supports measure. I propose that this agreement be formalised at the 4 August 2017 COAG Health Council (CHC) meeting, which would form part of the implementation plan for the 5th National Mental Health Plan in relation to psychosocial supports and the NDIS. Formal negotiations in relation to funding commitments and implementation would commence subsequent to the CHC meeting.

As a next step, I would appreciate it if you could provide an indication of <States/Territory> willingness to engage in a national psychosocial supports measure.

Yours sincerely

Greg Hunt
25 May 2017

cc: The Hon Christian Porter MP, Minister for Social Services