Hon Peter Dutton MP and Hon Mary Wooldridge MLA
Co-Chairs, COAG Mental Health Reform Working Group
c/- Secretariat
Department of Health and Ageing
GPO Box 9848
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Minister Dutton and Minister Wooldridge

Expert Reference Group on Mental Health Reform

As you are aware in December 2012, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) established an Expert Reference Group on Mental Health Reform (the ERG) to support the COAG Working Group on Mental Health Reform through the provision of independent advice on matters referred to it, including in relation to national indicators and targets for mental health reform.

The key task of the ERG was to provide advice to the COAG Working Group on Mental Health Reform on a set of ambitious and achievable national, whole of life, outcome based indicators and targets for mental health that will be understood by the community and drive systemic change.

The ERG has completed its work and the final report is enclosed, which the ERG has also released publicly. The framework of targets and indicators has been developed by the ERG, informed by extensive consultations with people with lived experience of mental health issues, their families and other supporters, clinicians, non-government organisations, peak bodies, Ministerial Councils and other key stakeholders.

The ERG believes it has developed a suite of targets and indicators which are ambitious and whole of life. The ERG has also, as necessary, recommended brave, stretch targets for to drive systemic and behavioural change.

Thank you for the opportunity to undertake this important piece of work. On behalf of the ERG and the many individuals and organisations who engaged with its task, I urge you to consider the ERG’s advice and respond to it at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Allan Fels AO
Chair, Expert Reference Group

25 September 2013