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Report of the National Review of Mental Health Programmes and Services Volume 4

Supporting Papers

30 November 2014



Australian Government
National Mental Health Commission

About this Review

This document is Volume 4 of a four-volume report of the National Review of Mental Health Programmes and Services. All volumes can be downloaded from www.mentalhealthcommission.gov.au. A complete list of the Commission's publications is available from our website.

A number of electronic fact sheets and a summary document are available on our website.

Many of the quotes in this publication come from people and organisations in Australia who participated in the Commission's Call for Submission process.

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Throughout this report when we have named people and organisations in quotes or case studies we have gained their prior permission. When people did not respond to our request for permission the quote was de-identified.

Overview of Volume 4

In arriving at the findings and recommendations of the final report of the National Review of Mental Health Programmes and Services, we took a series of steps in collecting evidence over the course of 2014. This Volume provides more detail about the phases of this stepped approach, and consolidates the data and themes that emerged.

This is not the first Review of a country's mental health system, and it is important to learn from the work that has been completed before us. We examined and analysed a wide range of Australian and international review reports, and found a high level of commonality of themes among the recommendations of 34 reports.

These themes are briefly outlined in **Paper 1**, along with a short history of Australian mental health reform.

After looking to the past, the next phase of analysis involved looking out across the nation to gain a high level overview of current mental health need in the Australian population, and how we are currently responding to that need. This overview is provided in **Paper 2**, showing what we found in terms of demand for and supply of mental health supports, evidence of unmet need, and how governance of mental health support is currently organised.

We then examined patterns of investment in mental health supports by the Commonwealth Government, which are supplied in Volume 1 (Attachment A) of this report.

Paper 3 presents publicly available state and territory data on expenditure, workforce and occasions of service. The state and territory data (which has been prepared for us by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) presented in **Paper 4** was only made available to us late in the Review process through the Mental Health Drug and Alcohol Principal Committee.

In **Paper 5**, the Australian Bureau of Statistics presents its initial findings from the *Mental Health Services-Census Data Integration project*. This project, which was sponsored by the Commission, offers unique insights into the characteristics of people accessing mental health services and medication in Australia, developed by linking Census data with Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) administrative information. This paper and data tables are available on the [Australian Bureau of Statistics website](#).