

Media Release

JENNY MACKLIN MP

**Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services
and Indigenous Affairs**

Personal help on the road to recovery

The Australian Government today announced it will double the reach of the Personal Helpers and Mentors program, expanding the number of sites from 76 to 155 to deliver more services to people with a severe mental illness.

A further 39 non-government organisations have been selected to deliver the program in 79 sites at a cost of almost \$100 million.

This will create approximately 400 full-time equivalent positions across the country.

Mental illness can have a devastating effect on people's lives leaving them feeling isolated, vulnerable and at risk of drug and alcohol misuse.

The program targets those most in need—people who cannot manage their daily activities or live independently because they have a severe mental illness.

Personal helpers and mentors work one-on-one with participants helping them achieve their goals—for example, how to manage every day tasks such as housekeeping.

They also work on improving relationships with family and friends and becoming more involved in community life.

And they make sure that participants are connected with essential clinical and support services.

By building confidence and increasing connections within the community, personal helpers and mentors can help overcome crippling social isolation.

People can refer themselves to the program, or their families and carers can encourage them to join or they can be referred to the program by a local health or community organisation.

So far more than 3,400 people have joined the program.

It is expected that new services will begin from April 2009.

North and West – North West – Moreland	Moreland Community Health Service Inc	1,210,800
North and West – City of Brimbank	Norwood Association Inc	1,210,800
North and West – Darebin	Neami Limited	1,210,800
North and West – Melton	Norwood Association Inc	1,210,800
North and West – Northern – Whittlesea	Mind Australia	1,210,800
North and West – South West – Hobson's Bay and Maribyrnong	Western Region Health Centre Ltd	1,210,800
North and West Hume 1	Western Region Health Centre Ltd	1,210,800
North and West – South West – Wyndham	Western Region Health Centre Ltd	1,210,800
North East – Banyule and Hillbuck	Neami Limited	1,210,800
Peninsula North	Mental Illness Fellowship of Victoria	1,210,800
Peninsula South and Westernport	Mental Illness Fellowship of Victoria	1,210,800
Southern Bayside	The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (VIC)	1,210,800
OTAL		21,099,960
Queensland - Site	Organisation	Amount \$
Bundaberg	Bundaberg Skills Centre Incorporated	1,339,890
Cairns	Aftercare	1,339,890
Chartiers Towers	Supported Options in Lifestyle and Access Services Inc.	1,339,890
Coolangatta/Burleigh	Aftercare	1,210,800
Goldstone	Community Solutions	1,339,890
Inner Brisbane North	Communify Qld	1,210,800
Inner Brisbane South	Aftercare	1,210,800
Logan	The Benevolent Society	1,210,800
Mt Isa	Anglicare North Queensland Ltd	1,339,890
Northern Brisbane	Neami Limited	1,210,800
Northern Sunshine Coast	The Schizophrenia Fellowship of Queensland Inc	1,210,800
Redcliffe/Deception Bay	Aftercare	1,210,800
Southern Brisbane	Neami Limited	1,210,800
Toowoomba	The Schizophrenia Fellowship of Queensland Inc	1,339,890
Warwick	Lifeline Darling Downs and South West Queensland Ltd	1,339,890
West Moreton	Aftercare	1,210,800
OTAL		20,276,430
South Australia - Site	Organisation	Amount \$
Eastern Metropolitan Area	Mind Australia	1,210,800
Murray Bridge	Catholic Church Endowment Society	1,339,890
Northern Metropolitan Area	Catholic Church Endowment Society	1,210,800
Outer Southern Metropolitan Area	Mental Illness Fellowship of South Australia	1,210,800
Port Pirie	UnitingCare Wesley Port Pirie Incorporated	1,339,890
South East of South Australia	Mental Illness Fellowship of South Australia	1,339,890
Southern Metropolitan Area – Inley/Mitcham	Mental Illness Fellowship of South Australia	1,210,800
OTAL		8,862,870

Western Australia - Site	Organisation	Amount \$
Albany/Central North Metropolitan district	Daughters of Charity Services (WA)	1,210,800
Brookton/Upper North Metropolitan district	UnitingCare West	1,210,800
Brookton/Upper North Metropolitan district	Daughters of Charity Services (WA)	1,210,800
Brookton/Upper North Metropolitan district	Daughters of Charity Services (WA)	1,210,800
Brookton/Upper North Metropolitan district	UnitingCare West	1,210,800
Brookton/Upper North Metropolitan district	Australian Red Cross	1,339,890
Brookton/Upper North Metropolitan district	Daughters of Charity Services (WA)	1,210,800
Brookton/Upper North Metropolitan district	Daughters of Charity Services (WA)	1,210,800
Brookton/Upper North Metropolitan district	UnitingCare West	1,210,800
TOTAL		11,026,290
Tasmania - Site	Organisation	Amount \$
Brookton/Upper North Metropolitan district	Anglicare Tasmania Inc	1,210,800
Brookton/Upper North Metropolitan district	Mission Australia	1,210,800
TOTAL		2,421,600
ACT - Site	Organisation	Amount \$
Brookton/Upper North Metropolitan district	The Richmond Fellowship ACT	1,210,800
TOTAL		1,210,800
TOTAL – AUSTRALIA		99,784,080

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