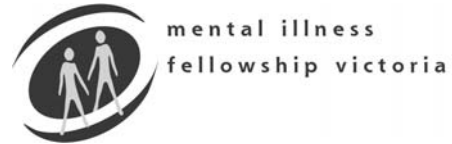


18 October 2005



## **MENTAL HEALTH REPORT LAUNCHED MISERY IN A SYSTEM THAT FAILS**

The Mental Health Council of Australia (MHCA) will launch its long awaited report on the state of the country's mental health system on Wednesday 19 October.

**Not For Service: Experiences of Injustice and Despair in Mental Health in Australia** will highlight the issues faced by people with mental illness and their families.

"People who live with mental illness are painfully aware of the shortfalls within the mental health system," explained Mental Illness Fellowship (MI Fellowship) Victoria Chief Executive Elizabeth Crowther. "Resources affect results."

The Not For Service report will be launched on Wednesday 19 October 10.30am at Sydney University's Brain and Mind Research Institute by The Hon. Tony Abbott, Minister for Health and Ageing. The report is expected to address the issues of:

- responsiveness to crises of mental health services;
- access to crisis intervention teams;
- inadequate accommodation;
- unacceptable rates of unemployment for people with mental illness.

"We applaud MHCA for the launch of this report," said Elizabeth Crowther. "We hope the government will see that the time is now to address these issues."

**MI Fellowship Victoria** runs 35 programs across the state including rehabilitation, education, respite and vocational programs. Its annual budget is \$9 million and is Victoria's largest membership-based mental health organisation with 170 staff, over 500 volunteers, 1500-plus members and over 40,000 supporters. More information at <http://www.mifellowship.org/>

Elizabeth Crowther from MI Fellowship Victoria is well placed to provide expert comment on the report.

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