

# **FROM THE MINISTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH**

**DATE: Saturday, June 2, 2007**

## **NEVILLE TO OVERHAUL EATING DISORDER TREATMENT**

The Minister for Mental Health, Lisa Neville, will overhaul eating disorder treatment in Victoria, ensuring that the most successful treatments are given priority.

Ms Neville said that with an estimated 30,000 Victorians suffering from eating disorders, the Bracks Government wanted to ensure the best possible services were available to sufferers.

“I am concerned that there is a gap between the success rates and the costs of the many different treatment models offered in Victoria – and the impact that is having on helping people to overcome anorexia, bulimia, and other disorders,” Ms Neville said.

“Eating disorders have terrible physical, psychological and emotional consequences for sufferers, their families and their friends.

“Victoria spends more than \$4.7 million a year on eating disorder services, but we want to spend it in the right way to ensure that effective help is available when and where it is needed.”

Ms Neville said she would act on issues raised in the *Eating Disorder Service Mapping Project*, which showed that while Victoria had some very good eating disorder services, they needed to be more consistent and better coordinated.

In the short term, Ms Neville has announced reforms to the Centre for Excellence in Eating Disorders (CEED) as a first step to improving Victoria’s response to eating disorders. This will include \$1.7m over 4 years to better target the work of CEED.

To boost awareness of innovative and effective treatments, CEED will now be managed by Melbourne Health and have a greater role in co-ordinating and supporting services and agencies around the State.

CEED will receive a four-year funding commitment of \$400,000 per annum,

plus a one-off \$70,000 grant to upgrade and expand its activities to meet the greater role it has been given.

As part of the reforms to CEED further work will occur to deal with different stages of eating disorders, including:

- **Mild to moderate disorders** – Develop a consultation and education role for Victoria’s Primary Mental Health and Early Intervention Teams, with an emphasis on early intervention and better support to GPs and other primary care services.
  - **Moderate to severe disorders** – Reinforce the role and capacity of public specialist mental health services in providing a systematic response to Victorians of all ages.
  - **Highly severe disorders** – Enable Victoria’s three adult specialist eating disorder services (Royal Melbourne, Austin and Monash), which have regional responsibility for the treatment for the most seriously compromised and complex clients, to work in collaboration with the Centre of Excellence in Eating Disorders (CEED) as a network of specialist services and supports.
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