



CANBERRA MENTAL HEALTH FORUM

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ACT MLA CANDIDATES FOR 2020 ELECTION

Dear MLA Candidate

The Canberra Mental Health Forum is a community advocacy and support group - an independent voice for mental health reform in our region. * We believe that the ACT Government should make mental health a high priority in 2020-24. We are circulating this short questionnaire to all candidates to give you the opportunity to tell us about your commitment to improve mental health services. Please complete and scan the completed document and email it to Canberra Mental Health Forum cmhfau@gmail.com

If elected to the ACT Legislative Assembly will you:

1. Support strongly the active involvement of carers and consumers in planning, implementing and evaluating key initiatives relating to mental health provision, including the ACT Government's response to the recommendations from the current Productivity Commission's Inquiry into Improving Mental Health?

YES NO (please circle)

2. Work to ensure provision of mental health services are improved, not reduced, in any shift to focus on early intervention?

YES NO (please circle)

3. Advocate for the development and implementation of a comprehensive approach in the ACT to eliminating the stigma and discrimination, which disadvantages people with mental illness in many aspects of their lives? *

YES NO (please circle)

4. Work to improve access to NDIS for people in the ACT with a psychosocial disability? *

YES NO (please circle)

5. Support action to relieve the bed-block situation at Adult Mental Health Unit by increasing the number of acute mental health beds at The Canberra Hospital and/or elsewhere?

YES NO (please circle)

6. Support action to reduce the shortfall of fully supported, long-term, stable residential accommodation for people with severe and enduring mental illness by renovating and restoring to full capacity the former Brian Hennessy House (now Extended Care Unit)?

YES NO (please circle)

7. Work to ensure a comprehensive, integrated suite of services are readily available for people with severe and enduring mental illness, including comprehensive mental and physical health care, a range of flexible accommodation options, education, employment support and social inclusion to improve their life expectancy and quality of life? *

YES NO (please circle)

8. Advocate for increased attention on mental health outcomes within the justice system by prioritising identifying those with mental impairment and addressing mental health issues by providing alternative pathways and enhanced treatment? *

YES NO (please circle)

9. Demand action for a minimalist approach to the use of psychotropic substances for mood stabilisation among older people in mental health and aged care facilities?

YES NO (please circle)

10. Support increasing and improving mental health services for young people and adolescents, including local specialised care for those with possible first episode of psychosis?

YES NO (please circle)

11. Promote reforms to make mental health complaints systems easy to use, rapid, efficient and effective?

YES NO (please circle)

Please tell us what you think is the most pressing issue to address in order to improve mental health services. Do you have any other comments that you would like to pass on to our group in relation to mental health services?

Thank you for completing our questionnaire.

Ros Williams, Convenor, CMHF

Completed by _____

Labor/Liberal/Greens/Independent/Other (please circle)

* See our website <https://www.canberramentalhealthforum.org> for our submissions to the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Mental Health and the ACT Auditor General for further information on these issues and for more information on our group.