



MEDIA RELEASE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SELECT COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH

OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH – PREMIER’S DEPARTMENT

MONDAY 9 DECEMBER 2002

The Chair of the Select Committee on Mental Health released the Committee’s final report *Inquiry into mental health services in New South Wales - Final Report* in Parliament today. The report is a comprehensive analysis of mental health services in NSW based on the evidence received by the Committee.

“Too often, NSW Health’s answer to problems in mental health is to develop a ‘booklet’ or a ‘guideline. Mental health services must be more than motherhood statements. People with mental health do not need Sentimental Health. They need, and should be receiving, direct, adequate and timely intervention services. The evidence presented demands revolutionary change in mental health services in NSW” the Hon Dr Brian Pezzutti MLC said today.

“The Final Report recommends an **Office of Mental Health** be established within the Premier’s Department to ensure the coordination of service delivery and inter-governmental communication. Sister Myree Harris of the Society of St Vincent de Paul, a tireless advocate for improved services and conditions of mental health services, recommended to the Committee that the proposed office be established. After considering the evidence before it, the Committee concurred with Sister Harris’ recommendation.” Dr Pezzutti said today.

“Its almost 20 years since the Richmond Report and the community sector is still yet to see the resources they were promised” Dr Pezzutti said today.

The Hon Dr Brian Pezzutti RFD MLC

Chair

A copy of the Committee’s Final Report is available on the NSW Parliament’s website at:

www.parliament.nsw.gov.au

*For further information and comment please ring the Hon Dr Brian Pezzutti MLC,
Chair of the Committee, on 02 9230 2322*