



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

# **INQUIRY INTO THE EQUITY, ACCESSIBILITY AND APPROPRIATE DELIVERY OF OUTPATIENT AND COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CARE IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**8 February 2024**

The Upper House committee tasked with inquiring into the equity, accessibility and appropriate delivery of outpatient and community mental health care in New South Wales will hold two final public hearings on Tuesday 13 February at the Lismore Heights Sports, Recreation and Community Club in Lismore and Thursday 15 February at NSW Parliament in Sydney, before considering its report.

On Tuesday, the committee will hear from community mental health organisations local to the Northern Rivers area, including Northern Rivers Women and Children's Services, Allied Health professionals, and Wardell CORE, a community hub and recovery centre focused on wellbeing and social care for the Lismore community.

Dr Amanda Cohn MLC, Chair of Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health said 'The Northern Rivers region has experienced compounding environmental disasters and failures of public policy in recent years. The mental health of residents is recognised as paramount to the community's disaster recovery journey. The committee received submissions from locals in Lismore urging us to visit and hear from members of the community first hand, and the committee looks forward to doing so on Tuesday.'

The committee will then hold its sixth and final hearing on Thursday 15 February, where it will hear from witnesses including the NSW Ministry of Health, community mental health organisations, suicide prevention services, legal groups, social workers, and local health bodies.

The Chair continued 'The committee is grateful to all those who have shared their stories and experiences over the course of the inquiry, which have been incredibly valuable to the committee and will inform its final report.'

### **Hearing details**

Public hearings will be held on Tuesday 13 February from 12.00 pm until 3.30 pm in the Function Room, Lismore Heights Sports, Recreation and Community Club and Thursday 15 February 2024 from 9.45 am until 5.00 pm in the Macquarie Room, NSW Parliament, Sydney.

The hearing will be open to the public, and live streamed on the NSW Parliament's website:  
<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/Pages/webcasts.aspx>

For more information about this inquiry including hearing schedules and transcripts, please visit the  
[inquiry webpage](#)

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*For further information please contact Committee Chair, Dr Amanda Cohn MLC, on (02) 9230 2566.*