



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SELECT COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**INQUIRY INTO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

**RELEASES INTERIM REPORT**

**TUESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2002**

This is the first of two planned reports from the Select Committee on Mental Health on its inquiry into mental health services in NSW. This report focuses primarily on placing the inquiry into an historical context and outlining the evidence so far received by the Committee.

The Chair of the Committee, the Hon Dr Brian Pezzutti MLC, said today This interim report illustrates that the major issues facing mental health service provision in NSW are by no means a recent phenomenon. The report identifies the main issues facing mental health services in NSW, such as treatment and care, community care, homelessness and housing, and forensic issues.

In submissions to the inquiry and in evidence before the Committee, it has been repeatedly stated that community care, both government services and those provided by the non-government sector, are inadequately funded in NSW. Beds are not available, recruiting and retaining qualified staff is difficult, while rural and regional services are inadequate and in some areas non-existent the Hon Dr Brian Pezzutti MLC said today.

The submissions to this inquiry were some of the most comprehensive and considered documents that I have read since becoming a Member of Parliament. Clearly, the weight of evidence the Committee has been presented with highlights that mental health services in NSW need revolutionary improvement.

The interim report provides a snapshot view of the Committee's evidence gathering and deliberations, and I would welcome members of the public to provide feedback on the inquiry's direction. It is envisaged that the Committee will address the terms of reference in detail and make its recommendations in the final report due towards the end of 2002 the Hon Dr Brian Pezzutti MLC said today.

**The Hon Dr Brian Pezzutti RFD MLC**  
Chair

**A COPY OF THE COMMITTEE'S INTERIM REPORT IS AVAILABLE ON  
THE NSW PARLIAMENT'S WEBSITE AT: [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au)**

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