

Sample Media Coverage of Mental Health Policy

Not a fit state of mind

Canberra Times, 18 May 2010, 789 words, By Lesley Russell, (English)

By now everyone is aware that, inexplicably, the major financial commitments made by the Rudd Government in its goal to improve health care includes nothing for mental health. The glossy brochure provided with the budget papers would have readers believe otherwise as the Government trumpets that it is "building the foundations for better mental health care". But these are hollow claims, exposed by the calculation that last week's budget provides only \$31.4million of new funding for mental health services over the next four years

http://www.menzieshealthpolicy.edu.au/other_tops/pdfs_events/lrct180510.pdf

Mental care likened to that of Africa

The Australian, 17 May 2010, 489 words, DEBBIE GUEST, (English)

A stabbing trial has highlighted the lack of mental healthcare in remote communities THE Aboriginal Legal Service has compared mental health services in central desert communities to those in poor African countries during the sentencing of a ...

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/mental-care-likened-to-that-of-africa/story-e6frg6nf-1225867469631>

Grassroots drive for mental health boost

The Australian, 17 May 2010, 500 words, ADAM CRESSWELL, (English)

ACTIVIST group GetUp! is targeting the need for better mental health funding as one of its key campaigns in the months leading to the federal election, citing a ``disappointing" lack of action from the Rudd government on the issue.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/politics/grassroots-drive-for-mental-health-boost/story-e6frgczf-1225867468203>

NO GOLD MEDALS FOR GOVERNMENT THAT NEGLECTS THE MENTALLY ILL

The Australian, 17 May 2010, 948 words, IAN HICKIE, (English)

Hips and hearts are in, but minds and mouths are out AUSTRALIA does not win gold medals for health care. In fact, the World Health Report ranks us at number 32, way below Britain and other Organisation for Economic Co-operation and ...

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/opinion/no-gold-medals-for-government-that-neglects-the-mentally-ill/story-e6frg6zo-1225867461450>

Needy miss out as mental, dental health bills soar

The Sydney Morning Herald, 15 May 2010, 512 words, Mark Metherell HEALTH CORRESPONDENT, (English)

TENS OF thousands of disadvantaged people are in urgent need of mental health and dental care, while the Rudd government struggles to control a \$1 billion fees bonanza for doctors, dentists and psychologists.

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/needy-miss-out-as-mental-dental-health-bills-soar-20100514-v4h5.html>

All talk little action on mental health

The Age, 15 May 2010, 723 words, BARBARA HOCKING. Barbara Hocking is executive director of SANE Australia., (English)

COMMENT & DEBATE Canberra needs to lift funding for mental health, not just pay lip service. DO YOU remember when someone in your class at school was going to have a big party?

<http://www.theage.com.au/opinion/politics/all-talk-little-action-on-mental-health-20100514-v4em.html>

Budget has ignored a significant health need

The Sydney Morning Herald, 14 May 2010, 719 words, Nick O'Connor and Victor Storm, (English)
JOIN THE DEBATE What happened to the focus on mental health, ask Nick O'Connor and Victor Storm. Have Kevin Rudd and Nicola Roxon forgotten about mental health? You are certainly left with this impression after the budget and health reform ...

<http://www.smh.com.au/opinion/society-and-culture/budget-has-ignored-a-significant-health-need-20100513-v1ji.html>

Fears held for funds-starved future --- THE FEDERAL BUDGET 2010

The Australian, 13 May 2010, 271 words, Lanai Vasek, (English)

MENTAL HEALTH AUSTRALIA'S mental health system is in danger of becoming one of the worst in the world if the government continues to divert funds from the sector.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/mental-health-experts-fear-for-funds-starved-future/story-e6frg6nf-1225865738932>

Call for GP health checks for mentally ill --- BUDGET 2010

The Australian, 10 May 2010, 375 words, Lanai Vasek, (English)

THE government has been called on to introduce a Medicare Benefits Scheme item number as a way of getting more GPs to conduct health checks on people with a mental illness.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/in-depth/budget/call-for-gp-health-checks-for-mentally-ill/story-e6frgd66-1225864269824>

Plea made for mental health funding

The Australian, 1 May 2010, 454 words, Lanai Vasek, (English)

A NATIONAL health body devoted solely to mental health research is desperately needed if Australia is to advance treatment of psychotic illnesses and relieve pressure on the hospital system.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/plea-made-for-mental-health-funding/story-e6frg6nf-1225860823110>

COAG and mental health reform are not good bedfellows

Canberra Times, 27 April 2010, 955 words, By The Canberra Times, (English)

What a day it was when the Prime Minister released the final National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission report in July 2009. In hindsight, there were clear signs of things to come. Health lobbyists, professional and consumer groups ...

<http://www.actmhc.org.au/cms/media/documents/COAG%20and%20mental%20health%20reform%20are%20not%20good%20bedfellows.pdf>

ATAPS review is hard to swallow

LESLEY RUSSELL, Canberra Times 9 April 2010

A round Australia there is a growing chorus of concerned voices over the Rudd Government's lack of focus on and commitment to mental health. To date, mental health has not featured in the Government's push of its proposed National Health and Hospitals Network, and the Prime Minister's statement that mental health reforms are imminent simply adds to the concerns of stakeholders who have yet to be adequately consulted.

http://www.menzieshealthpolicy.edu.au/other_tops/pdfs_pubs/LRCT090410.pdf