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Minister for Health and Ageing

MEDIA RELEASE

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Release of National Advisory Council Discussion Paper on Mental Health

It's important to live a mentally healthy life and, if necessary, have access to appropriate mental health services and support when these are needed.

I am therefore pleased today to release *A Mentally Healthy Future for all Australians*, my advisory council's discussion paper that provides a vision and suggestions for a coordinated response to Australia's mental health needs.

The discussion paper has been prepared by the National Advisory Council on Mental Health. The council was established in 2008 following an election commitment to provide independent, balanced and expert advice to government on a variety of mental health issues.

It will assist in the Australian Government's consideration of broader health system reform, including our response to the National Health and Hospital Reform Commission, the Preventative Health Strategy and the Primary Health Care Strategy.

The paper will also contribute to mental health reform directions under the *National Mental Health Policy* and the *Fourth National Mental Health Plan* and will be useful in assisting the Australian Government to determine its implementation priorities from the Fourth Plan.

The report is available at:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/mentalhealth/publishing.nsf/Content/whats-new-lp-1> and <http://www.mentalhealth.gov.au>

For all media inquiries, please contact the Minister's Office on 02 6277 7220.