



## MEDIA RELEASE

17 May 2023

### **The 2023 Federal Budget misses the opportunity for long-term sustainable support for people with severe and complex mental illness**

The Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia (MIFA) is disappointed that long-term and sustainable reforms for people with severe and complex mental illness have been delayed once again.

We welcome measures to boost income support and relieve cost-of-living pressures. Additional support for the mental health of First Nations peoples and culturally and linguistically diverse communities is also welcomed.

Whilst the investment of \$586.9 million in mental health and suicide prevention is welcome, the Federal Budget fails to provide a long-term response to support people with severe and complex mental illness, some of our most vulnerable Australians.

Over 150,000 people with severe and complex mental illness still do not have support in the community to enable them to live well and independently (known as psychosocial support).

“After closing psychiatric institutions in the 1980s, we are still waiting for governments to provide additional funding that can support people with severe and complex mental illness forty years on,” said MIFA’s National Chief Executive Officer, Mr Tony Stevenson.

“This unfinished business of the closure of psychiatric institutions has condemned thousands of people to social isolation, risk of homelessness, poor mental and physical health, and reduced life expectancy.

“We are very disappointed that the Federal Budget fails to invest any new funding in community-based psychosocial support services for people with severe and complex mental illness.”

Investing in psychosocial supports for Australians with severe and complex mental illness is critical to supporting mental health and wellbeing. MIFA is advocating for the development and delivery of a national program of psychosocial supports to ensure people can access the supports they need, when they need them, in their local community.

Media Contact: Tony Stevenson, National CEO, Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia

Mobile Phone: 0400 555 433

Email: [tony.stevenson@mifa.org.au](mailto:tony.stevenson@mifa.org.au)

[www.mifa.org.au](http://www.mifa.org.au)



“With the right psychosocial support, people with serious and complex mental illness can recover their place in their community, and live contributing lives, but we need new investments in psychosocial services to make this happen,” stressed Mr Stevenson.

MIFA calls on the Federal Government to take greater leadership in the development of a National Psychosocial Support Program for people with severe and complex mental health conditions not eligible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme. This must include a commitment from the Federal Government to contribute financially to this national program, and to resolve the roles and responsibilities of the Commonwealth and the States and Territories under this national program.

Ends

*To get help 24/7, phone Lifeline on 13 11 14 or the Suicide Call Back Service on 1300 659 467. If you or someone you know are in immediate danger, phone 000 for emergency services.*

Media Contact: Tony Stevenson, National CEO, Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia  
Mobile Phone: 0400 555 433  
Email: [tony.stevenson@mifa.org.au](mailto:tony.stevenson@mifa.org.au)  
[www.mifa.org.au](http://www.mifa.org.au)