



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **The 2024 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.

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.

“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.

It is critical that the National Psychosocial Support Unmet Needs Report is acted upon immediately. Together with the development of Foundational Supports within the NDIS, MIFA calls on the Federal Government to take greater leadership in the establishment of National

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Psychosocial Support Program for people with severe and complex mental health conditions not eligible for the NDIS.

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.*

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