

MEDIA RELEASE

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500,000 Australians Need Psychosocial Supports Now. Government Must Act Through MYEFO While Planning for 2027 Reform.

The Productivity Commission's [Final Report into the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement](#) was released quietly on Remembrance Day. Its message is clear: nearly 500,000 Australians with moderate and high mental health needs are missing the psychosocial supports required to live well, and governments must act now.

The report confirms what people with lived experience, families, carers, supporters, service providers, and MIFA have been raising for years. The current National Agreement is not delivering the person-centred, integrated system Australians deserve.

“MIFA welcomes the Commission’s findings, which reinforce what our communities have been saying for far too long,” said James Maskey, CEO of MIFA. *“Every day without support is a day too long for people who rely on these services, and for the families and carers who walk beside them.”*

Psychosocial supports, non-clinical services that help people live independently, stay connected, maintain relationships, and build daily living skills, are already delivered across Australia, but far too few people can access them. For those not eligible for the NDIS, these gaps have profound consequences for housing stability, employment, wellbeing, and long-term recovery.

“The good news is governments already have mechanisms, including the Commonwealth Psychosocial Support Program, that can deliver an immediate uplift in support and can be funded in the upcoming MYEFO update to the 2025-26 Budget,” James continued.

“Government can act now while designing the longer-term reforms needed to rebuild the system’s foundations.”

The Commission also highlights that the Agreement’s current structures are not fit for purpose. Roles and responsibilities remain unclear, funding cycles are too short, reporting is inadequate, and there is no national mechanism capable of driving coordinated reform.

“Extending the Agreement to 2027 may give governments time to reset,” James noted. “But it cannot become an excuse to delay action. Timely investment in psychosocial supports is essential. Immediate action and long-term reform can and must happen together.”

MIFA argues that how reform is delivered matters as much as the reform itself. Past efforts have created complexity rather than clarity. What is needed now is a national governance and implementation structure built on genuine partnership.

“Genuine co-production must guide the next Agreement from start to finish, including planning, design, implementation, monitoring, and review,” James said. “People with lived experience, and the families, kin, and carers who support them, must be equal partners in shaping the system. Anything less risks repeating past shortcomings.”

MIFA calls on Health and Mental Health Ministers to:

- **Expand existing supports** for individuals, family carers and kin by 1 July 2026 through the 2025-26 [Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook](#) (MYEFO), and state and territory budget processes.
- Establish a **lived experience led co-production team** by 1 July 2026 to guide psychosocial and carer reforms.
- **Implement the recommendations of the co-production team** over time from 1 July 2026.
- **Commit to closing** the unmet individual and mental health carer gap by 30 June 2030.

Resetting national leadership in mental health cannot wait until 2027. The roadmap is here. What is required now is intention, partnership, and action.

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