

HASI Plus Fact Sheet



The *Strategic Plan for Mental Health in NSW 2014-24* included the expansion of psychosocial supports provided by the non-government sector for adults with severe mental illness living in the community.

As part of this, the Government will support the provision of 16 and 24 hour per day coordinated housing, clinical and accommodation support services for people with severe or persistent mental illness.

This will assist these people to transition to living in the community from long term institutional care, such as mental health facilities, correctional facilities or long term care in hospitals.

HASI Plus is located in Northern Sydney, Hunter New England and Western Sydney Local Health Districts.

The program is a statewide service and takes referrals to support people from all NSW Local Health Districts. To date, it has been delivered under a National Partnership Agreement with positive outcomes being reported.

The NSW Government is committed to continuing this initiative under its mental health reforms and to enhancing it with additional accommodation and support to be located elsewhere in the State.

The HASI Plus program is underpinned by the National Recovery Framework principles. Recovery is seen as a journey, sometimes lifelong and refers to people 'being able to create and live a meaningful, contributing life in a community of choice with or without the presence of mental health issues'.

A combination of secure housing and appropriate support leads to improved quality of life for people with severe mental illness, such as social participation and family relationships, better employment and education, reduced avoidable hospitalisations and reduced lengths of stay. Re-offending and behavioural problems, such as drug or alcohol use and problem gambling, may also reduce.

The aims of the HASI Plus program are, therefore, to:

- provide a recovery oriented intensive psychosocial support and accommodation program to assist eligible individuals with a lived experience of severe and persistent mental illness who would otherwise be unable to transition out of lengthy stays in mental health facilities, prisons or long term care in hospitals and then to sustain community living;

- ensure ongoing access for eligible individuals to clinical services that maintain their physical and mental health and wellbeing;
- participate in their psycho-social rehabilitation, including, vocational, educational and workforce participation, as appropriate;
- assist eligible individuals with daily living skills;
- provide eligible individuals with stable and secure housing and assist in supporting their tenancies; and
- continue to strengthen and support health, accommodation support and mental health partnerships.

A person's duration in the program is based on individual need and for as long as an individual requires these services to maintain successful community living.

The intensive support provided by the HASI Plus program has already assisted six individuals to successfully exit from the program to a productive life in the community but with lower levels of support.

Through concentrated partnerships with each individual, their family and carers, clinical services and other providers, HASI Plus has supported people with lived experience of mental illness to sustain greater independence and wellbeing in the community including enabling some ex-prisoners with lived experience of mental illness to successfully complete their parole period for the first time.

People in the HASI Plus program have been assisted in re-connecting with estranged family members and provided with opportunities to undertake education and begin work, all of which were previously thought to have been beyond the scope of that individual.

To learn more about mental health care reform in NSW visit

www.health.nsw.gov.au/mentalhealth/reform

