

SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH AN **INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY**



Between 1 to 2 per cent of the NSW population have an intellectual disability. People with intellectual disability have higher rates of mental illness compared to the general population.

An estimated 40 per cent of people with intellectual disability will experience mental illness at any one time. Such illnesses include depression, anxiety disorders, schizophrenia and other psychotic illnesses and bipolar disorder.

Despite experiencing higher rates of mental illness than the general population, people with intellectual disability often experience a number of challenges in accessing and participating in mental health services. Timely access to high quality mental health care is a priority for NSW Health.

Funding for Mental Health Reform in 2017-18

Under the NSW Government's response to Living Well: A Strategic Plan for Mental Health in NSW 2014-2024 new funding is supporting initiatives to strengthen the capacity of mainstream community and inpatient mental health services and develop specialist services for people with intellectual disability and co-occurring mental illness.

New funding of \$1.1 million per annum will fund new initiatives that will enable people living with mental illness and intellectual disability to access high quality mental health care.

The new funding will be used to:

- develop accessible information about mental health services for people with an intellectual disability and their families and carers
- develop clinical service pathways for people with intellectual disability through adult mental health services
- develop supports to enhance local strategic partnership for people with intellectual disability and mental illness
- develop specialist capacity to meet the more complex needs of people with coexisting mental illness and intellectual disability

To learn more about mental health care reform in NSW visit

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

