

22 January 2020

headspace Armadale WA

RESPONSE TO PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION REPORT

headspace Armadale WA make the following comments in response to the draft Productivity Commission report:

- Funding of programs over a longer-term to ensure meaningful results – particularly in the Aboriginal community where it is important to build trust over time, especially in outreach work and resource-intensive programs – progressive evaluation process rather than an outcome focus with short timeframes
- Place-based resource allocations – for example, long-term housing in Armadale WA is not so much of an issue as the provision of more complex clinical support programs, particularly in the areas of support for Autism Spectrum Disorder, ADHD and Borderline Personality Disorders – lower socio-economic areas such as Armadale WA are not able to afford the cost of private practitioners which can cost \$1,500 - \$2,000 – waitlists for public consults can be up to 2 years, very risky and produces deteriorating mental health issues meantime (Tier 3 services are receiving more complex threshold clients and are re-referring clients back to headspace)
- Mental health education is required for teachers and staff in high schools (and perhaps primary schools), hospitals, GPs and Police so that young people with mental health issues are re-directed appropriately when demonstrating anti-social behaviours – so they may receive the help they need and reduce the burden on over-worked professionals who may have a limited understanding of the issues
- Foster programs which enable inclusion for young people and a sense of belonging – community integration has long been an important point of recovery for people of all ages, including young people
- Funding to be made available to support young people from a CaLD and Aboriginal background to educate both parents and young people and the community around awareness of mental health issues (community engagement programs)
- headspace Armadale is supportive of the points raised by headspace National and the Productivity Commission

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