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Report on Government Services 2013

## **MENTAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT (CHAPTER 12)**

This chapter reports on the performance of governments in the management of mental health. Mental illness is a significant cause of morbidity and mortality in Australia and is identified by governments as a national health priority area (p. 12.3).

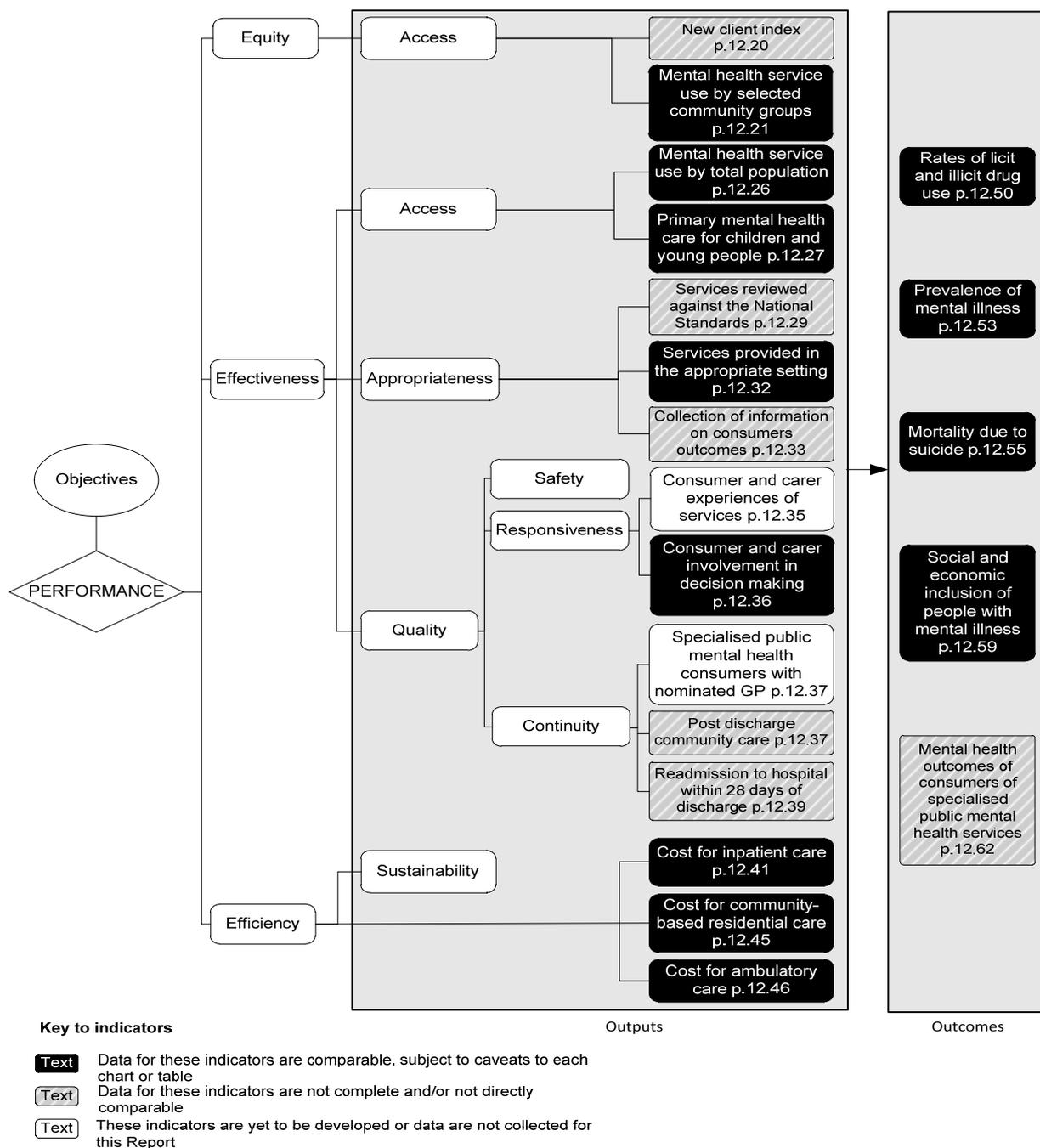
- Governments provide or fund a range of mental health management services. The key services are Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS)-subsidised mental health services; admitted patient care in hospitals; and community-based services that provide ambulatory care, residential care and support services for people with a mental illness living in the community (pp. 12.11-12).
- Real government recurrent expenditure of around \$6.6 billion was allocated to mental health services in 2011-12 (p. 12.6). State and Territory governments made the largest contribution (\$4.1 billion, or 62.5 per cent), although this included some Australian Government funds under the National Healthcare Agreements Special Purpose Payment (p. 12.6). The Australian Government spent \$2.5 billion or 37.5 per cent (p. 12.6).
- In 2010-11, 1.6 per cent and 6.9 per cent of the total population received State and Territory governments' community-based ambulatory mental health services and MBS-subsidised mental health services, respectively (p. 12.26). Most people who received care from a State and Territory governments' community-based ambulatory service have also been admitted to hospital or received a community-based residential care service. The number of mental health beds in public hospitals or community-based residential settings was 40.2 per 100 000 people in 2010-11 (p. 12.15 and table 12A.22).

### **Broad objectives of National Mental Health Policy**

The key broad objectives of National Mental Health Policy are to:

- promote the mental health and well-being of the Australian community and, where possible, prevent the development of mental health problems and mental illness
  - reduce the impact of mental health problems and mental illness, including the effects of stigma on individuals, families and the community
  - promote recovery from mental health problems and mental illness
  - assure the rights of people with mental health problems and mental illness, and enable them to participate meaningfully in society (p. 12.16).
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Performance indicators for mental health management services (figure 12.9, p. 12.19)



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**Please do not approach other parties for comment before 31 January 2013.**

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Tables with a '12A' prefix (eg table 12A.5) are in the attachments on the Review website.

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