MENTAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT (CHAPTER 12)

- The focus of this chapter is 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. 12.2).

- 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 $6.1 billion was allocated to mental health services in 2009-10 (p. 12.7). State and Territory governments made the largest contribution ($3.9 billion, or 63.5 per cent), although this included some Australian Government funds under the National Healthcare Agreements Specific Purpose Payment (p. 12.7). The Australian Government spent $2.2 billion or 36.5 per cent (p. 12.7).

- In 2009-10, 6.3 per cent and 1.6 per cent of the total population received MBS-subsidised and State and Territory governments’ community-based ambulatory care services, respectively (pp. 12.28-29). Most people who received care from a community-based ambulatory service have also been admitted to hospital or received a community-based residential care service. The number of beds in public hospitals or community-based residential settings was 39.9 per 100 000 people in 2009-10 (p. 12.16).

Broad objectives of National Mental Health Policy

The broad objectives of Mental Health Policy include to:

- improve the effectiveness and quality of service delivery and outcomes
- prevent, where possible, the development of mental health problems and mental illness
- undertake early intervention for, and promote recovery from, 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
- assure the rights of people with mental illness
- improve mental health and facilitate recovery from illness through more stable accommodation and support and meaningful participation in recreational, social, employment and other activities in the community.
Mental health management performance indicator framework (figure 12.9, p. 12.21)

Key to indicators:
- Text: Data for these indicators comparable, subject to caveats to each chart or table
- Text: Data for these indicators not complete or not directly comparable
- Text: These indicators yet to be developed or data not collected for this Report chapter explains explanatory text

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Tables with an ‘12A’ prefix (eg table 12A.1) are in the attachments on the Review website.