

8 May 2012

**McKeon Review Secretariat**

PO Box 4226  
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By email: [mckeonreview@secretariat.com.au](mailto:mckeonreview@secretariat.com.au)

**Re: McKeon Review**

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the McKeon Review. Based on data demonstrating that mental illness is the largest non-fatal burden of disease in Australia and that it is the third largest burden of disease after cancer and cardiovascular disease, the College has long advocated for significant increase in funding for research into mental health. We also know that mental illness is more prevalent in some cultural groups and that the Carers and the community sector play a vital role in providing care to people with a mental illness.

We recommend the following key areas for research:

1. Develop a strategic framework for mental health
2. Identify initiatives to develop and foster an active research community in mental health that includes engaging in 'partnerships' with consumers and carers in the conduct of mental health research (that is, researching 'with' and not simply researching 'of' consumers and their families/carers)
3. Identify factors that would increase the quality, efficiency, effectiveness and the economic benefits of mental health
4. Research into the causes of mental illness, distribution in the community and the most effective therapies
5. Research into co-morbidity and the consequent high death rate from those causes in people with mental illness
6. Research into the metabolic effects of many psychotropic drugs
7. Research into the use of technologies and tools for early detection of mental illness and early intervention
8. Undertake longitudinal studies that identify gaps in the current system
9. Research into models of care that have worked well in order to set benchmarks for best practice
10. Identify barriers to receiving appropriate care for people with psychiatric illness
11. Workforce modelling

If you have any queries in regard to this matter, or would like any further information, please contact Dr Anne Ellison, via [anne.ellison@ranzcp.org](mailto:anne.ellison@ranzcp.org) or by phone on 9601 4918.

Yours sincerely



Dr Maria Tomasic  
**President**

**cc:** Prof H. Brodaty AO

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