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FIRST COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTRE AT MARION

The first of South Australia's six new purpose-designed \$34m Community Mental Health Centres will be built at the new GP Plus Health Care Centre at Marion.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Minister Jane Lomax-Smith made the announcement today ahead of the proposal being released for public consultation.

The other five centres will be located in the outer southern suburbs, eastern suburbs, inner north, outer north and western suburbs. Suitable locations are being explored.

"The Social Inclusion Board's 2007 *Stepping Up* report highlighted the need to provide different steps of care for people as they recover or suffer setbacks in their health," Dr Lomax-Smith says.

"We have a massive program underway to build new mental health facilities across the State to provide better levels of treatment and care for South Australians with a mental illness.

"This includes a brand new \$130m hospital at Glenside, new mental health units in metropolitan hospitals, dedicated beds in country hospitals, new intermediate care centres, recovery centres and community mental health centres.

"In total, we are establishing 86 more adult mental health beds across the State.

"Our mental health reform is aimed at boosting early intervention services – to help people with a mental health issue before it gets to the stage where they need to go to hospital.

"What's so important about this community mental health centre is that it will be part of existing health and community services, where most mental health issues – like anxiety and depression – are detected in the first place, by GPs or allied health professionals."

Preliminary site work on the \$27m GP Plus Health Care Centre – to be situated alongside the new State Aquatic Centre – is underway and project completion is expected in December next year.

Commissioner for Social Inclusion Monsignor David Cappo says it's smart having community mental health services co-located with general practitioners and other health professionals.

"People will be able to get preventative treatment and care for a mental health issue as well as treatment for other health conditions at the one location," Monsignor Cappo says.

"Providing mental health services alongside general health services is an important step towards normalising attitudes towards mental health in our community."

“The construction of Community Mental Health Centres is a key milestone in providing a stepped-system of care for mental health in South Australia.”

The centres will provide services including crisis response, outreach services, services to patients presenting to emergency departments, people in need of rehabilitation support, therapy services, psychiatric services, psychology services and assessment services.

The six new centres will consolidate the services provided by 20 smaller services across the metropolitan area, which were fragmented and separated by distance.

Planning for the six centres has involved consultation with patients, carers, industrial organisations, peak representative bodies, non-government organisations, General Practice SA, colleges of professional bodies, other government agencies and the Social Inclusion Board.

Information on GP Plus Health Care Centre Marion

GP Plus Health Care Centres, together with local general practices and other health care providers, offer a broad range of health care services in the community that work together to help people stay healthy.

Services provided at GP Plus Health Care Centre Marion will be designed around the needs of children and families, young people, older people and people with or at risk of chronic health conditions.

The GP Plus Health Care Centre will have allied health professionals, dentists and community health staff working together under one roof to help people manage chronic disease and to stay healthy and out of hospital.

The new Marion GP Plus Health Care Centre will offer a wide range of health services including:

- Dental services for adults and children
- Health and counselling services for young people
- Early childhood development services, including speech pathology and occupational therapy
- Assessment, education and counselling services, including self-management programs for people with chronic conditions
- Health services for older people
- Medical specialist services

The State Aquatic Centre and GP Plus Health Care Centre has been funded by the Federal and State Governments and City of Marion.