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## State Peak Body calls for party leaders to support long-term mental health goals

Mental health must be made a priority for this Federal election, says the Queensland Alliance for Mental Health (QAMH).

“There is still much to be done to reform Australia’s mental health system,” CEO of QAMH said. “It is vital to the health and wellbeing of millions of Australians that all political parties strengthen their efforts to improve the lives of people who experience mental illness and their carers.”

“We are asking party leaders to support mental health, particularly for ‘at-risk’ populations. There are important reforms underway and these cannot be forgotten during the current electoral cycle,” CEO of QAMH said.

“If we want to significantly reduce the rates of suicide, a collaborative approach across all levels is required. Preventing suicide is everyone’s responsibility. Party leaders, indeed all parties and candidates, can show their support for mental health by committing to long-term measures to improve mental health outcomes in Australia.

We have written to leaders asking for a long-term commitment to:

- Reducing the national suicide rate
- Improving the physical health of people with a mental illness
- Increasing employment rates for people experiencing mental illness and their carers
- Increasing mental health consumer and carer participation and choice in national policy design and implementation
- Maintaining current overall levels of investment in mental health, with measures that support full reinvestment of cost efficiencies and savings.

“Changing political fortunes have left services with uncertainties surrounding funding and service provision. This creates an environment where people who live with mental illness and their carers face the difficult task of navigating a complex and ever-changing system.”

QAMH will liaise with Mental Health Australia who will be producing a ‘scorecard’ to be released in a few weeks to see how the major parties respond to the request.

### #ends

Enquiries regarding this media release can be directed to the Manager, Communications, Engagement and Training, Amy Zeegers on email [azeegers@qamh.org.au](mailto:azeegers@qamh.org.au).

To arrange an interview with Ms Kris Trott, CEO of QAMH, please contact; Julia Riordan, Executive Assistant to CEO | [jriordan@qamh.org.au](mailto:jriordan@qamh.org.au) | 07 3252 9411