MEDIA RELEASE

Initial commitments made in an election that must mark a turning point for mental health

With less than two months until Victorians vote, Mental Health Victoria (MHV) welcomes the first commitments for mental health.

As cost-of-living pressure continues to place additional stress on Victorians and performance data points to a mental health system unable to meet demand, MHV is pleased to see recognition that having a plan to address mental health and wellbeing challenges across the state is not an optional extra, with early campaign commitments announced.

In summary, commitments to date include:

- **Liberal / National Coalition:** investments in; youth mental health, Mental Health Early Access Program, mental health workforce, and independent review of mental health reform implementation and expenditure with commitment to publication of a reform blueprint.
- **Labor:** investment in support for police mental health.
- **Greens:** commitments to provide supported housing and free mental health care.

While these announcements are encouraging, and MHV is pleased to see our advocacy reflected in public messaging, Victorians and the mental health sector remain concerned that the scale of the commitments does not match what is required.

MHV is calling on all parties to clarify their mental health policy positions by responding to the priorities presented in our election platform, developed in partnership with the mental health and wellbeing sector.

Mental health is a priority issue for Victorians and that is why MHV is partnering with Orygen and Black Dog Institute to host an open conversation about their ideas, experiences and what they need for their mental health. *Our state of mind: A community conversation about mental health care* will be held on Monday 9 November.

Mental Health Victoria Chief Executive Officer Phillipa Thomas said:

"*Anyone seeking to lead Victoria as the next Government needs to disavow themselves of the idea that they can do so successfully without a plan to address Victorians' mental health and wellbeing needs and the state of the system. The question will be waiting for an answer on Day 1 and every day that follows.*"

** ENDS**

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Contact

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Secure a spot at *Our state of mind: A community conversation about mental health care* here: https://events.humanitix.com/our-state-of-mind