



**Psychiatric Disability Services**  
of Victoria (VICSERV)

**Media release**

**30 April 2012**

**Release of Victorian Government's Psychiatric Disability Rehabilitation Support Services reform framework consultation paper**

The peak body for community managed mental health services welcomed the release today by the Minister for Mental Health, Mary Wooldridge of the Psychiatric Disability Rehabilitation Support Services Reform Framework consultation paper.

VICSERV CEO, Kim Koop said "We support the intent of the framework and its broad proposals for reform." The government has listened to our concerns and the Framework reflects recommendations for change that we put forward to the government at the end of last year."

"Our members are keen to work together with the government to ensure that there is a core set of community-based mental health support services available to everybody no matter where they live."

The move to provide funding directly to people with a mental illness and their families so they have more choice and control over the services they receive is anticipated by the framework. "In the first instance, the reforms will allow service providers to use funding flexibly and creatively to offer clients a package of services tailored to their individual needs." said Kim Koop. "Our members have been calling for this opportunity for a long time as increasing client control has been proven to assist recovery from mental illness.

"The government has allowed considerable time for consultation and this is welcome as there is much about the overall scope, shape and pace of change that needs to be discussed and debated." VICSERV has already articulated its position on reform in the *Agenda for change* which was released in February this year

According to Ms Koop, "The reforms proposed by the government will significantly alter the way in which our member organisations operate." "The scale of reform outlined in the framework will require serious resourcing by the government".

**For media enquiries please contact Ms Kim Koop, Chief Executive Officer on (03) 9519 7000.**

**For further information VICSERV members can contact the VICSERV Policy and Research Unit on (03) 9519 7000.**