

Mental Health Update



2 September 2010



The Hon Lisa Neville MP

Dear friends and colleagues

In December 2008 I released a *Consultation paper* which commenced the review of the *Mental Health Act 1986*.

Since that time - with the assistance of the Community Consultation Panel and the Expert Advisory Group both led by Julian Gardner – the Government has undertaken a comprehensive public consultation process to ensure that the new Bill is informed by a wide range of stakeholder views and reflects the modern standards we all expect.

Throughout this process a key suggestion made by a range of stakeholders including carers, consumers, clinicians, parliamentary colleagues and health service professionals, has been that further consultation and an exposure draft process may be of value given the size, complexity and impact of the new Bill.

In considering these suggestions I have sought advice from Julian Gardner on the benefit of this process and balanced this with the need to ensure that the reforms are implemented in as timely a way as possible.

I have taken the decision that an exposure draft process is the best way to ensure that the new Bill delivers on its key objective, which is to ensure we have consumer focused and carer inclusive legislation that works to ensure people's human rights and promote recovery.

In the coming weeks I will be releasing a draft of the new Mental Health Bill for exposure, and I look forward to completing this key legislative reform in the spirit of partnership in which it was commenced.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Neville'.

Hon Lisa Neville MP
Minister for Mental Health

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