

Assisting long-term patients to live in the community



Health

People with enduring and severe mental illness experience better quality of life and improved social outcomes if they can maintain living in the community.

A strong acute mental health service is important and inpatient care in NSW will continue to grow in line with community needs.

Mental health care in hospital will be available for people who require high levels of clinical and disability support where community-based care does not meet their needs.

However, everyone has the right to live in the community.

New community residential options will be designed for the 380 people currently receiving long-term hospital care in non-acute and acute units in NSW. Each long-stay patient will be clinically assessed and staff will work with each and every person to create a plan based on their individual needs.

Each patient will move into a community setting only when it is right for them.

Transition to community living will depend on each individual's particular needs as well as on tailored housing, clinical care and available psychosocial support.

To achieve this, transition will need to occur in stages over a number of years to ensure new community-based options are established and a variety of accommodation options are available to meet clinical needs.

In 2015-16, all 380 patients in existing long-term care will be assessed to determine individual requirements to transition from hospital to community, where possible.

Eligibility for access to support packages under the National Disability Insurance Scheme will also be considered.

Over the next two years, it is expected that up to 100 patients (around 25 per cent) will begin to transition to more appropriate care in the community.

Key statistics:

- As at June 2014, approximately 380 people are receiving long-term hospital care in non-acute and acute units in NSW
- 336 are currently housed in six major mental health hospital sites in NSW: Cumberland, Macquarie, Morisset, Kenmore, Orange, and Concord.
- 44 are spread across another 13 sites.