



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MEDIA RELEASE

From Ms Georgie Crozier MP, Chair

23 November 2011

WORKFORCE AND MENTAL HEALTH – PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE EXTENDS CONSULTATIONS

A Parliamentary Inquiry investigating issues relating to workforce participation by people with mental illness has extended the timelines for its consultations.

Ms Georgie Crozier MP stated that there has been significant interest in the Inquiry and that the Family & Community Development Committee is extending the opportunity for members of the community to express views on this important issue.

“The Committee thanks everyone who has made a submission. We have received extremely valuable input that will inform our considerations on the social and economic issues associated with low workforce participation by people with mental illness.”

Ms Crozier emphasised that the costs associated with these issues cannot be underestimated.

“People with mental illness not participating in the workforce are at greater risk of hospitalisation and suicide. They also experience higher levels of social isolation, financial difficulties and homelessness,” she said.

“Mental health issues, such as anxiety and depression, contribute to around 4.7 million absentee days a year, costing the Victorian economy around \$660 million,” Ms Crozier stated. “Other costs include reduced and disrupted productivity and the costs of welfare and support.”

The Committee’s Inquiry will investigate strategies to resolve these issues and make recommendations to the Victorian Government in its report to Parliament in September 2012.

The Terms of Reference for the Inquiry and its Submission Guide can be found on the Committee’s website: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/fcdc.

For further information contact Janine Bush, Executive Officer, Victorian Parliamentary Family & Community Development Committee: (03) 8682 2843.