

THE TURNBULL COALITION TEAM

CCHQ 2016



27 June 2016

Professor Lyn Littlefield
Executive Director
Australian Psychological Society
PO Box 38
FLINDERS LANE VIC 8009

Dear Professor Littlefield

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the views of the Coalition on important issues facing your members. On behalf of the Coalition Members of Parliament and candidates I am pleased to respond to your survey.

Australia's future depends on how well we can continue to grow and shape our economy.

Only the Liberal and National Parties have an **economic plan** to do that and ensure Australia's future.

We have a clear plan to transition the economy from the mining and investment boom to a stronger and more diverse economy.

The key elements of our national economic plan for jobs and growth are:

- An Innovation and Science programme bringing Australian ideas to market. This means greater investment and more jobs and opportunities for our young people;
- A New Defence Industry plan that will secure an advanced defence manufacturing industry in Australia. This will create thousands of new hi-tech, higher paying jobs;
- Export Trade Deals that will generate more than 19,000 new export opportunities. These will create many more jobs for our urban and regional families;
- New Tax Incentives, which will include tax cuts for more small businesses. More than two million businesses can benefit, to deliver more growth and jobs; and
- A Strong New Economy with more than 200,000 jobs expected to be created.

Our national economic plan and management is already paying dividends. Last year our economy continued to grow creating almost 300,000 new jobs, many of them in small business.

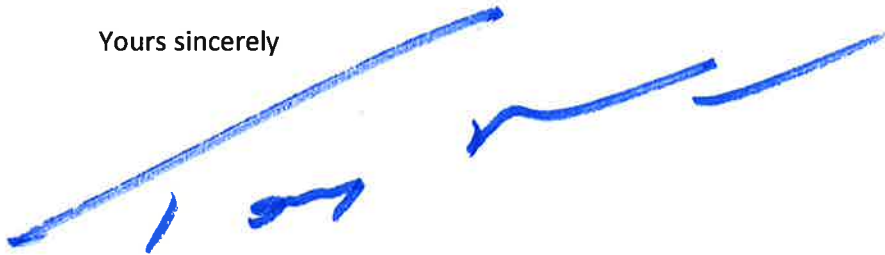
We cannot put economic growth and the jobs that come with it at risk with a return to Labor and their debt and deficits, high taxing, big spending ideas.

Only a Liberal and National Party Government can protect Australia's future.

Once announced, our policies will be available at www.liberal.org.au and www.nationals.org.au.

Thank you for communicating the Coalition's commitments to your members.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several fluid, connected strokes that form the name 'Tony Nutt'.

Tony Nutt
National Campaign Director

COALITION RESPONSE TO AUSTRALIAN PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Turnbull Coalition is committed to ensuring ready access to mental health services when and where they are needed.

The Coalition has delivered on its 2013 election commitments, including:

- a systematic review of Commonwealth-funded mental health services by the National Mental Health Commission (NMHC);
- establishing a new National Centre of Excellence in Youth Mental Health; and
- a substantive investment in new digital technologies to underpin the delivery of online mental health services.

Mental health reforms

The Coalition is investing in the mental health of all Australians to ensure a stronger economy through workforce participation with greater opportunity to improve the wellbeing of those living with mental health challenges.

We are committed to once in a generation reform, that puts the needs of individuals at the centre of our mental health system and involves our newly established Primary Health Networks (PHNs) in planning, commissioning and integrating services at a regional level.

The key elements of the reforms are:

- coordinated packages of care for people with severe and complex needs, and flexible support for mild and moderate needs;
- a new model of commissioning mental health services through PHNs that allow communities to decide on the services that best suit their needs;
- a new approach to suicide prevention, co-ordinated by PHNs;
- a new Digital Mental Health Gateway to optimise online support and navigation to clinical services; and
- better access to culturally sensitive mental health services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

In addition, the Turnbull Coalition's *Plan to Strengthen Mental Health Care in Australia* will invest an additional \$192 million in mental health reform.

This package includes:

- \$26 million for 10 PHN lead sites (and an additional \$7 million for four PHN lead sites focussed on suicide prevention) to be champions of mental health reform. In 2016-17 the lead sites will establish regional service pathways, demonstrate models of stepped care (where the level of care is matched to severity of illness), and explore the use of digital technology to provide important support for individuals.
- \$24 million for 8 suicide prevention trial sites, with a total of 12 suicide prevention trial sites including 4 PHN lead sites. These trial sites will focus on community-based approaches to suicide prevention including education, service integration, effective post-discharge follow up and the application of digital technology.
- \$12 million for a new Suicide Prevention Research Fund and Best Practice Hub to support targeted research and evaluation, and support the PHNs in their role.
- Guaranteed funding for *headspace*.
- Guaranteed funding for six youth early psychosis services until 2019.
- \$20 million for an additional 10 *headspace* centres, bringing the total to 110, with a focus on additional services in rural and regional areas.
- \$30 million for 21st century digital technologies to support mental health reforms.
- \$2.5 million to Lifeline to trial a Crisis Text service.
- The independent National Mental Health Commission to oversee and report annually on the progress and implementation of important mental health reforms.

A Coalition Government understands the impact of depression, anxiety and poor mental health on both individuals and our productivity as a nation, is significant.

Our mental health reforms will result in better personalised support and care, greater opportunity and better lives for Australians.

The Coalition is committed to leaving no stone unturned in its approach to suicide prevention to help reduce people tending towards suicidal behaviour.

We are working to better understand the social and economic factors that have contributed to recent increases, and to empower our each of our communities to respond locally.

As part of our mental health reforms, we have committed to a new National Suicide Prevention Strategy to address the current fragmented approach to suicide prevention.

The Strategy will include funding for national suicide prevention leadership and support activities, including anti-stigma and awareness campaigns plus crisis support services.

The Strategy involves our Primary Health Networks (PHNs) commissioning community based suicide prevention activities. This will focus on integrating services at the local level including effective post-discharge follow up and the need to refocus efforts to prevent suicide in Indigenous communities.

Four of our PHN lead sites located in Queensland (Brisbane North), New South Wales (North Coast), Victoria (North Western Melbourne) and Western Australia (Perth South), will be focussed on new collaborative approaches to community based suicide prevention.

In addition to these four sites, the Coalition will provide an additional \$24 million over three years to fund a further eight regional trial sites in identified priority areas, including at least two remote Indigenous regions, Tasmania and regional South Australia.

With key national partners – such as the Black Dog Institute, *beyondblue*, *headspace* and other stakeholders – these trials will bring the best evidence-based strategies, models and digital technologies together to better target people at risk of suicide and ensure a more integrated, regionally-based approach.

The Coalition will also commit \$12 million in funding for a Suicide Prevention Research Fund that will support targeted research to support our PHNs. It will include a best practice hub of resources to support the work of PHNs and others involved in community-based suicide prevention.

We will also provide \$3 million over three years to support the consistent evaluation of the 12 regional suicide prevention trials around Australia and to assess their impact.

The Coalition is committed to reducing suicide rates through regional trials, research and building the evidence base to develop flexible models that address regional needs and work in our local communities. Experts have told us this is the only way we can make an impact.

The Turnbull Coalition is focussed on creating jobs and growth, which will result in better lives for all

Australians. We are committed to helping individuals with mental health issues into productive employment. In addition to its significant investment in Disability Employment Services, a re-elected Turnbull Coalition will consider opportunities to provide training and employment for individuals with a lived experience of mental ill health as a peer support workforce. This will assist the rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) as well as the broader mental health system.