



MEDIA RELEASE

PAUL LYNCH MP
MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT
MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS
MINISTER ASSISTING THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH (MENTAL HEALTH)

March 2008

Lemma Government and Black Dog tackle depression

NSW State Plan Priority F3: Improved outcomes in mental health

The Lemma Government has extended its partnership with the Black Dog Institute, committing a further \$1.5 million for further research into depression and mood disorders.

Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health) Paul Lynch said the Lemma Government's partnership with Black Dog was delivering results in the early intervention of mood disorders.

Mr Lynch said the Black Dog's Mood Assessment Program (MAP) . a world first . was a proven success with more than 750 patients already assessed.

The MAP . supported with \$1 million from the Lemma Government . captured over a quarter of a century of consolidated clinical know-how of clinical research psychiatrists with expertise in mood disorders.

Patients enter information about their illness into a computer program,+Mr Lynch said.

While the MAP doesn't offer a precise diagnosis, it provides sophisticated information to referring clinicians that otherwise could only be provided by a highly-skilled mood disorders specialist,+he said.

The Mood Assessment Program links clinicians . particularly those in rural and remote communities . with the latest assessment, diagnosis and management tools,+Mr Lynch said.

The technology will particularly benefit GPs in rural and remote areas who may not have access to psychiatrists experienced in dealing with people with mood disorders,+he said.

Mr Lynch said the additional \$1.5 million announced today would assist the Black Dog Institute in the following research:

- Pursue links between depression and coronary syndromes
- Examine the costs and social impact of Bipolar Disorder

<http://www.blackdoginstitute.org.au/media/newsdesk/index.cfm>

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- Evaluate internet-based education and self-help for young people and adults with mood disorders

Mr Lynch said the lemma Government had been a proud supporter of the Black Dog Institute.

%Black Dog has a strong track record in assessing and treating mood disorders through research, education and training,+he said.

%Black Dog is the leading authority in the mood disorders field and plays a critical role in delivering on the lemma Government's focus on early intervention in mental health,+Mr Lynch said.

%The NSW Government has already delivered almost \$8 million to Black Dog and has further committed more than \$5 million in the next three years,+he said.

%It is vital government and organisations like the Black Dog Institute work together to continue to improve the clinical standards for diagnosis and management of mental illness,+Mr Lynch said.

%The NSW Government is backing our investment in research organisations with record Budget funding of \$1.05 billion in 2007-08 . an increase of \$105 million on the previous year,+he said.

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