

# Barbara Perry MP

Minister for Local Government  
Minister Assisting on Health (Mental Health and Cancer)



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September 28, 2009

## **New centre dedicated to young people's mental wellbeing to open today**

A \$16 million specialist centre dedicated to young people's mental health and wellbeing will be officially opened today in Sydney.

**Minister Assisting on Health (Mental Health) Barbara Perry said the NSW Government is proud to contribute \$16 million towards the new Youth Mental Health facility at the Brain & Mind Research Institute, located at Sydney University in Camperdown.**

"This new facility, designed for young people aged 12 to 25, will bring together support groups, carers, scientists and mental health clinicians," Ms Perry said.

"It will offer comprehensive clinical services and research for young people with mental health problems, particularly those in the early phases of psychotic and mood disorders."

Early intervention, prevention and youth specific mental health services are a key focus of the NSW Government, Ms Perry said.

"It's essential that people receive support from an early age - most adults with mental illnesses had recognisable symptoms by the age of 15," Ms Perry said.

Ms Perry said NSW is leading the way in Australia in supporting new ways of developing and strengthening mental health services for young people.

"The Brain and Mind Research Institute will run this new facility to help young people with mental health issues. It is exciting that the vision for this facility - one of the best of its kind in the world - has come to fruition."

The NSW Government continues to expand services for young people with a mental illness, Ms Perry said.

"Our dedication to young people's mental health includes \$26.8 million over five years to establish youth mental health services across NSW.

"We recently opened a new high intensity mental health unit at Concord specifically for adolescents with severe and persistent mental illnesses.

"All of these services are a key step to promote better mental health, prevent and minimise risk factors and intervene as early as possible."