

Government Response to Bondi Junction Coronial Inquest Will Not Prevent Next Tragedy

6 August 2026: As key mental health organisations in NSW, we warn that the NSW Government's response to the Bondi Junction Coronial Inquest does not address the core structural issues within the mental health system and will do little to prevent another similar tragedy occurring in the future.

While the NSW Government's press release yesterday states they supported all recommendations (11 recommendations and 2 in principle), [their full response](#), released today, tells another story: one where mental health reform is supported in principle but deprioritised and underfunded in practice.

We need to be clear about what the inquest found: Joel Cauchi slipped through the cracks of an underfunded mental health system and was without stable housing on 13 April 2024.

According to the NSW Government's own figures, there are more than 58,000 people in NSW with severe and complex mental health challenges who are currently unable to access the care they need. There are a further 166,000 people with mental health challenges who cannot access the basic psychosocial and wellbeing supports they need to live, like housing, employment and functional supports.

These are the structural issues that need to be addressed to prevent another tragedy:

- **Recommendation 7** ("supported in principle") asks the Government to model the need for and lead the establishment of **supported housing services** for people experiencing mental health issues and homelessness. This is a critical and urgent piece of reform that the Government has supported "in principle" for years but has consistently underfunded in practice. We call on the NSW Government to properly model, cost and fund supported housing services to meet the level of need in NSW.
- **Recommendation 8** ("supported") asks the Government to obtain, within twelve months, a **comprehensive gap analysis report** on options to improve the public mental health system, including resourcing community health centres. The Government already completed this analysis at the end of 2024 but it has not released it publicly. We call on the NSW Government to publicly release this gap analysis so the people of NSW can see the extent of the underfunding and we can work to fill the gaps.

The Government has accepted the Coroner's recommendations but acceptance is just the first step. To prevent a similar tragedy from occurring, the Government must ensure people with severe and complex mental health challenges have stable housing, continuity of care, and the supports needed to live safely and well in the community.

That is what the recommendations of the inquest require and that's what the people of NSW need. We stand ready to work with the NSW Government to deliver the full reform agenda.

Signed:

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- Jonathan Harms, CEO, **Mental Health Carers NSW**
- Dr Evelyne Tadros, CEO, **Mental Health Coordinating Council**
- Sharon Grocott, **Wayahead**
- Dr Ian Korbel, **RANZCP** NSW Branch Chair
- Dr Pramudie Gunaratne, CEO, **Australian Society of Psychiatrists**

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