



Media Release

Friday, 23 March

For immediate release

New Partnership to Support Swan Mental Health Carers

A new partnership between Arafmi Mental Health Carers and Swan Mental Health is set to benefit family and friends who care for a loved one with a mental illness. A Family Support worker from Arafmi will now be based at the Swan Mental Health Service, offering much-needed support. This new collaboration marks the beginning of a closer relationship between these services, ensuring an integrated approach to supporting those with a mental illness, and those who care for them.

A formalised partnership and Memorandum of Understanding between the Swan Mental Health Service & Arafmi has been established. This will:

- Improve accessibility for family members, carers and clinicians to Arafmi services,
- Assist in the development of a more inclusive service to help meet the needs of family members, carers and friends of consumers with mental illness
- Establish local reference groups to ensure that the planning and development of the service occurs at a local level.

John Ellis, the Program Manager of Adult Mental Health at Swan, said the partnership will greatly benefit carers and patients. "It will be a real asset to have an Arafmi worker on site at Swan. Carers do vital work and it's vital that they are well supported," he said. Patrick Hardwick, the president of Arafmi, said the new arrangement will facilitate the provision of ongoing support for carers. "Family and friends do an incredible job taking care of their loved ones. But it's a job that can place a lot of pressure on the carer - so they need care too. Being onsite at Swan will allow us to make sure they're getting the care they need," he said. The Family Support worker, Belinda Britton, will be contactable at the Swan clinic from March 29th on 9347-5741.

The partnership will be formally announced at a launch next week. Media, allied care agencies, carers and consumers are all invited to attend. Morning tea will be served.

Wednesday, 28 March at 10:15am
Conference Room, Swan Mental Health Service
Eveline Road, Middle Swan

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