



The Hon Nicola Roxon MP
Minister for Health and Ageing

Amanda Rishworth MP
Federal Member for Kingston

24/7/10

NEW HEADSPACE YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE AT NOARLUNGA

Federal Member for Kingston, Amanda Rishworth MP welcomed the announcement that a re-elected Gillard Labor Government would establish a new youth mental health service in Noarlunga within a year.

The Hon Nicola Roxon MP, Minister for Health and Ageing said today that Noarlunga has been identified as having an unmet demand for mental health services aimed at assisting young people – a demand that the new *headspace* service will help to meet.

Ms Rishworth said “I fought hard for this investment in our community. It is critical that we have youth-specific mental health facilities in the South because two thirds of all people with mental health problems experience their first symptoms before the age of 21.

“The population of Noarlunga and the surrounding area are growing rapidly which has put pressure on existing mental health services. I am pleased that the new *headspace* service will help to ease this pressure.

“The Noarlunga *headspace* service will improve the access of local young people aged between 12 and 25 to mental health care and related drug and alcohol services.”

Ms Rishworth said that *headspace* has a proven track record in helping young people with mental health issues.

Ms Rishworth said “An independent evaluation of the *headspace* program found that 92 per cent of young people reported improvements in their mental health and reduced levels of psychological distress following involvement with the services.

“As a former psychologist I am particularly excited about this investment in our area and I look forward to the Noarlunga *headspace* opening in the next year.”

Ms Rishworth said that the Noarlunga site is one of ten new centers to begin operating around Australia over the next 12 months, with up to a further twenty services to begin by mid-2013.

The Gillard Government is committed to improving the availability and suitability of mental health services for young people.

For more information about the *headspace* program, see <http://www.headspace.org.au/>.