Dear Drs Ren and Kestel,

The National Mental Health Commission of Australia (the Commission) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Discussion Paper outlining a draft menu of cost-effective interventions for mental health.

The Commission supports the WHO Secretariat’s inclusion of three new population-based economic analyses with a focus on prevention. The Commission has recently published similar work for the Australian context examining a combination of ten indicated and universal interventions for prevention of mental illness.

Each intervention was subject to a cost effectiveness analysis using a return on investment framework, and a secondary filter examining the non-financial considerations including: equity, acceptability, feasibility, sustainability, strength of evidence and potential secondary effects (both positive and negative).

Nine out of the ten interventions showed a positive return on investment, demonstrating economic benefits in the form of improvements in productivity and health care costs savings, and strengthening the evidence base for investing in prevention initiatives in mental health.

The final summary report is appended at Attachment A. The Commission hopes this will provide a useful reference for Member States to consider in adapting the menu of interventions for the national context. Summaries for each of the individual interventions, which include discussion of the non-financial considerations are available on the Commission’s website: [http://mentalhealthcommission.gov.au/our-work/update-economics-of-mental-health-in-australia.aspx](http://mentalhealthcommission.gov.au/our-work/update-economics-of-mental-health-in-australia.aspx)
For further information about this project, please contact Ms Sarah McNeill, Acting Director, Mental Health Reform Team via sarah.mcneill@mentalhealthcommission.gov.au or phone +61 2 8229 7522.

Yours sincerely,

Maureen Lewis
Deputy Chief Executive Officer

19 September 2019