

media monitoring

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ADVOCATE: Prime Minister Kevin Rudd listens to Professor Patrick McGorry. Picture: GARY RAMAGE

Overdue national focus on mental health issues

WHAT wonderful news that Professor Patrick McGorry, a psychiatrist recognised for work in the mental health field and champion for early intervention to prevent mental illness, has been named Australian of the Year.

The media has already widely reported Prof McGorry's comments that treatment of mental illness in Australia is a huge

weakness in our society and has been neglected and under-funded for many years.

We look forward to maintaining this high level of attention to mental health issues from government, the media and the public in the next 12 months.

After all, one in five Australians will experience a mental illness at some stage in their lives and

mental illness will at some point affect 50 per cent of the population as they care for their friends and family.

It is important, however, to note that most people will recover fully from a mental illness, especially if they receive help early.

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