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Patron His Excellency, The Honourable
Peter Underwood AC, Governor of Tasmania

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Federal funding welcomed for Tasmania's mentally ill, but preventative measures missed

RFT (Richmond Fellowship Tasmania) has welcomed the \$344 million allocated in last night's Federal Budget to combat mental illness in Australia, but says preventative measures were overlooked.

RFT CEO Patrick Carlisle said implementing a 'no wrong door approach' would greatly improve access to RFT's services for those with a mental illness in Tasmania.

"There are many people in our community who could greatly benefit from the services provided by RFT, who are currently stuck in an endless cycle of homelessness and hospitalisation," Mr Carlisle said.

"Implementing a failsafe process where they can seek a way out will greatly reduce the burden this cycle has on our State services.

"Improved access to dental care is also acknowledged. People with mental illness often find it difficult to access adequate dental care. The \$53 million to be invested to introduce a voluntary dental internship will also benefit those community members with a mental illness.

"While we welcome this investment into mental health, we also acknowledge that the Budget has missed an important opportunity to invest in preventative health.

"Additional funding in preventative health, especially in the form of drug and alcohol rehabilitation in relation to mental health, would prove more productive."

ENDS

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