

# Briefing Paper

PARLIAMENTARY BREAKFAST  
31 MARCH 2026



# Political and Policy Background

- Next Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) to commence 1 July 2027.
- Negotiation and consultation window until caretaker period for Vic election beginning November (election 28 Nov 2026).
- Expected to be a short sharp consultation period.
- Psychosocial supports are at the top of the priority list for the next Agreement.
- No appetite for PHN commissioning reform.
- No appetite for declaration recommended in PC review report.

# Fiscal Environment

- Only new money for psychosocial supports coming from Foundational Supports bucket negotiated through the Health Reform Agreement earlier this year. Of that \$10 bn, Thriving Kids program and general foundational supports will take significant amount.
- Has been significant expectation management underway since the war in the Middle-East.
- No new money available for SEWB recommendations from PC review report.

# Strategic Objectives

Enhance government confidence in psychosocial supports and catalyse action and investment in IGA through:

- Demonstration of alliance and clear messaging between Lived Experience peaks and Community-Managed sector.
- Demonstration of alliance and clear messaging between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peaks and mainstream mental health peaks.
- Credible economic analysis demonstrating economic benefits and practical low-cost options for investment.

In Attendance

# Hon Emma McBride MP



- Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention.
- Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health.
- Strong supporter of 3 National Lived Experience Peaks.
- Clinical background (previously pharmacist in public hospital) and strong supporter of Medicare Mental Health Centres.
- Electorate: Dobell, NSW.
- Party: Australian Labor Party.

# Hon Henry Pike MP



- Shadow Assistant Minister for Mental Health.
- Shadow Assistant Minister for the NDIS.
- Op-ed in The Australian 23rd March on suicide prevention: “We can’t accept another century of complacency on suicide.”
- Electorate: Bowman, Queensland.
- Party: Liberal National Party of Queensland.

# Hon Dan Repacholi MP



- Special Envoy for Men's Health.
- Has just visited Tasmania and Western Australia to understand issues related to men's mental health.
- Supported the idea of investing in workforce.
- Background: Five-time Olympian and Commonwealth Games Gold Medallist. Fitter and turner, coal miner.
- Accompanied by Chief of Staff Chad Griffith.
- Electorate: Hunter, NSW.
- Party: Australian Labor Party.

# Senator Lisa Darmanin



- Very familiar with and supporter of community mental health services. Understands issues and challenges.
- Background: ASU background including working on the community sector equal pay case. She began her career at Berry Street Victoria, a community services organisation supporting vulnerable children and families.
- Key policy priorities are standing up for workers' rights and ensuring financial security for women. Strong supporter of investment in community sector workforce and rebuilding sector.
- Senator for Victoria. Australian Labor Party.

# Hon Julie-Ann Campbell MP



- Trade union background.
- Policy priorities multicultural mental health issues, particularly being from a multicultural community in Brisbane.
- Interested in challenges in Qld particularly in regional areas for accessing mental health services.
- Committee Member, Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights.
- Electorate: Moreton, Qld
- Party: Australian Labor Party.

# Hon Luke Gosling OAM, MP



- Special Envoy for Defence, Veterans' Affairs and Northern Australia.
- Deputy Chair of the Australian Labor Party Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Caucus Committee.
- Military service background, served in Timor-Leste.
- CEO St Vincent de Paul 2010-2011.
- Electorate: Solomon, NT.
- Party: Australian Labor Party.

Other Staffers Attending

# Wendy Hayhurst



- Josh Burns Adviser (he is on parental leave).
- Josh is Special Envoy for Social Housing and Homelessness.
- We met with them late last year. Very interested in housing and mental health connection.
- Wendy is former CEO of Community Housing Industry Association (CHIA) the peak body representing not for profit community housing organisations across Australia.
- Josh's Electorate: McNamara, Victoria.

# Meg Thomas

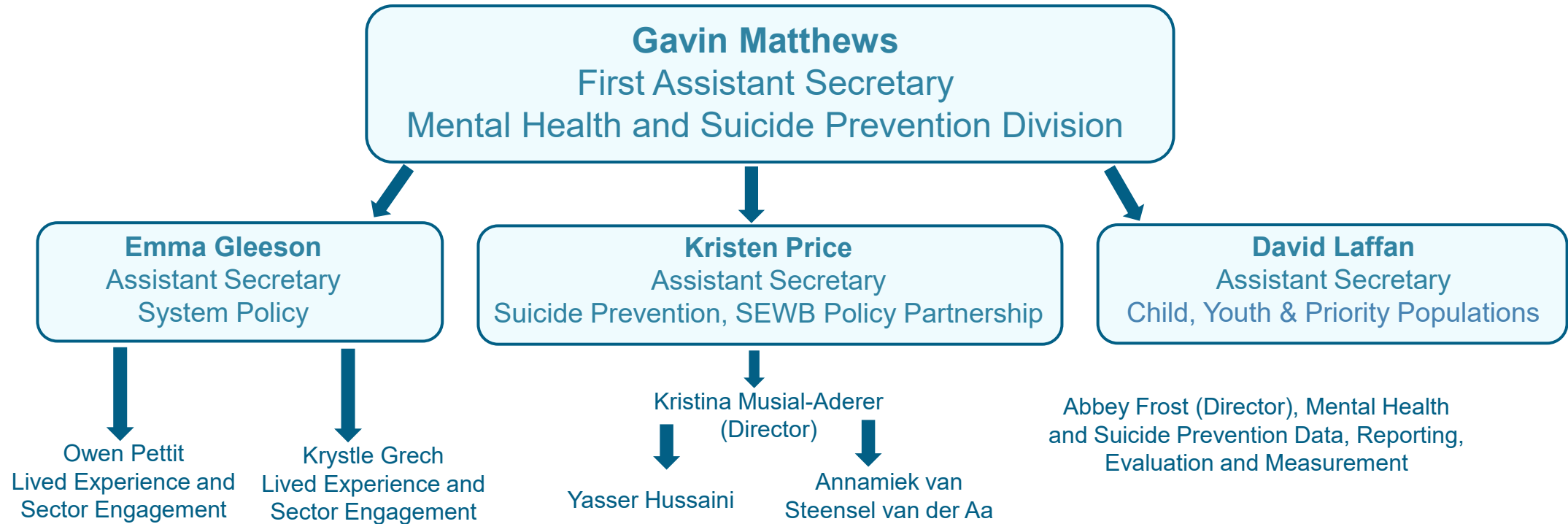


- Adviser to Hon Dr Andrew Leigh MP.
- Assistant Minister for Productivity, Competition, Charities and Treasury
- The Assistant Minister may stop by towards the end of the breakfast.
- Electorate: Fenner, ACT.

# Cameron O'Donnell

- Tania Lawrence MP's office.
- Aware of connections between mental health and adversity.
- Part of her electorate (Midland) is one of the most socio-economically challenged areas in Perth/Boorloo.
- Electorate: Hasluck, WA.

# DHDA



# DHDA

**Suzanne Muir**

A/g First Assistant Secretary  
Disability Strategy, Supports and Inclusion

**David McGrath**

CEO National Mental Health Commission

# Centre for Social Impact

Paul and Lisette will be at the breakfast.  
They are both authors of the paper being presented.



**Prof Paul Flatau**  
Director  
Centre for Social Impact  
University of Western Australia



**Lisette Kaleveld**  
Senior Research Fellow  
Centre for Social Impact  
University of Western Australia

# Familiar Faces



**Kerry Hawkins**  
CEO  
Community Mental Health  
Australia



**Aunty Vicki McKenna**  
CEO  
Indigenous Australian  
Lived Experience Centre



**Katrina Armstrong**  
CEO  
Mental Health Carers  
Australia



**Rachel Fishlock**  
CEO  
Gayaa Dhuwi  
Won't be at the event



**Priscilla Brice**  
CEO National Mental  
Health Consumer Alliance  
Won't be at the event



**Tom Hodge**  
Operations Manager  
Gayaa Dhuwi  
Will be in attendance



**Jen Nixon**  
National Policy and Research  
Manager, National Mental  
Health Consumer Alliance  
Will be in attendance

# Thank you



Gayaa Dhuwi  
(Proud Spirit)  
Australia



MentalHealthCarers  
*Australia*



NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH  
CONSUMER ALLIANCE



**CMHA**  
Community Mental Health Australia



**Indigenous  
Australian**  
Lived Experience  
Centre