Thursday, 25 October 2018

**NATIONAL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE TO ADDRESS YOUTH MENTAL ILLNESS**

A world-leading new National Centre for Excellence in Youth Mental Health promised and built by the Andrews Labor Government will soon open its doors at Parkville.

Premier Daniel Andrews and Minister for Mental Health Martin Foley today visited the cutting-edge Orygen Centre, the new internationally-renowned facility that will spearhead our bid to address youth mental illness.

Labor backed the National Centre of Excellence with $60 million – but we know there’s more to do to address the scourge of youth mental illness. It’s why we’re determined to go further.

Only a Royal Commission will truly unmask the difficulty some young Victorians are facing as they live with mental illness – or the heartbreak their families face as they try to get support – and only Labor will get it done.

A re-elected Andrews Labor Government will establish a historic Royal Commission into Mental Health, with Terms of Reference and Commissioners to be announced within our first 100 days.

A Royal Commission will give a voice to people who live with mental health conditions every day, including young Victorians. It will listen to the experts like the international research leaders and specialists at Orygen and the National Centre for Excellence in Youth Mental Health.

The flagship new facility will provide clinical treatment for 5,000 young people every year, offering services such as acute community-based care, psychological treatments, psychosocial programs and peer and family support. It will house the most accomplished researchers, right in the heart of Melbourne’s renowned biomedical science precinct.

The Labor Government has already made record investments in mental health, with a $705 million package for more mental health support, including early intervention and treatment for young people with mental illness.

The Liberals cut mental health funding at every chance. They left the system in decay and reduced access to services by more than 20 per cent. Only Labor will establish a Royal Commission into Mental Health to improve the lives of Victorian families in every community.

**Quotes attributable to Premier Daniel Andrews**

*“Too many Victorian families are touched by mental illness. We’re proud to give our world-class mental health experts the first-class facilities they need to change lives.”*

*“Only a Royal Commission will help us build the mental health system our community deserves.”*

**Quote attributable to Minister for Mental Health Martin Foley**

*“This world-leading institution will offer the very best treatment and support for thousands of young Victorians to help get their lives back on track.”*