



Programme

Australian Psychosis Research Network (APRN) Official Launch

Room 2S3, Parliament House, Canberra
Tuesday November 28, 2006

To prevent schizophrenia and bipolar disorder

9.30am	Coffee on arrival	
SESSION 1 SCHIZOPHRENIA RESEARCH IN AUSTRALIA		
10.00am	Welcome	Senator Ursula Stephens Co-convenor, Parliamentary Friends of Schizophrenia
10.10am	Introduction	Sheryl Taylor, MC Award-winning former Channel 9 Health Reporter
10.15am	Collaborate, consolidate, cure	Professor Stanley Catts , Chair of Hospital and Community Psychiatry, University of Queensland
10.35am	The Australian research landscape	Professor Vaughan Carr , Professor of Psychiatry, University of Newcastle, and Scientific Director, NISAD
11.00am – 11.15am	Morning tea	Media interviews
SESSION 2 PERSPECTIVES ON SCHIZOPHRENIA AND BIPOLAR DISORDER		
11.15am	Building better services with better research	Mr Rob Knowles , President, Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia
11.35am	Psychosis research and prevention	Professor Christos Pantelis Scientific Director, Melbourne Neuropsychiatry Centre, University of Melbourne
PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING		
12.00pm	Welcome to Members of Parliament Collaborate, consolidate, cure	Parliamentary Friends of Schizophrenia Professor Stanley Catts
	The human face	Ms Angela Greensill , NISAD Ambassador, A young person living with schizophrenia
	Australia – the right place at the right time	Professor Cynthia Shannon Weickert Founding NISAD Chair of Schizophrenia Research Former Unit Chief, National Institute of Mental Health, Maryland, USA
	PANEL – Q&A	Professor Chris Pantelis Mr Rob Knowles Professor Philip Mitchell Assoc Professor Brian Dean
1.00pm – 1.45pm	Lunch	Media interviews
SESSION 3 APRN – HOW WILL WE ALL WORK TOGETHER?		
1.45pm	The APRN model	Professor Vaughan Carr
2.10pm	WORKSHOP – Integrating our efforts	Representatives of the scientific community, consumers, biotechnology, media, Q&A
3.00 – 3.15pm	Afternoon tea	
SESSION 4 IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES		
3.15pm	The APRN Action Plan	Sheryl Taylor
3.50pm	Close	Andrew Laming, MP Co-convenor, Parliamentary Friends of Schizophrenia
4.00pm – 6.30pm	Cocktail party	The Senate Alcove



Key facts about psychoses

To prevent schizophrenia and bipolar disorder

A bigger problem than you may think

- >3% of the world's population suffer a psychotic disorder
 - >50% do not acknowledge that they are ill or need treatment
 - >5% commit suicide as a direct consequence of their illness.
- Unlike dementia, cancer or cardiovascular diseases that primarily affect older people, psychotic disorders permanently disable young people for the rest of their lives.
- 69% of bipolar disorder is misdiagnosed.
- Suicide rates in bipolar disorder are 1.5x that of the general population.

Why we need more research

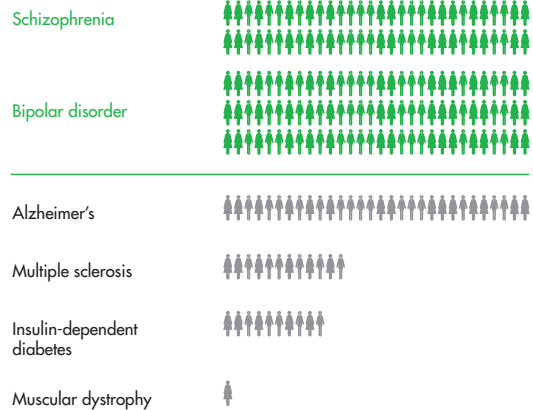
- Nearly 80% of disability associated with schizophrenia is completely untreatable.
- Current treatments for schizophrenia are inefficient, costing >\$200,000 to reduce time of disability by one year.
- Most treatments are non-specific – only research can deliver targeted treatments that act on specific brain systems.
- Psychotic disorders represent the tip of a genetic iceberg which also causes many chronic non-psychotic disorders in adolescents. Understanding psychotic disorders will improve understanding of many severe mental health disorders such as chronic anxiety and eating disorders.
- The time is ripe – advances in genetics, neuroscience, and brain imaging have made it the right time to tackle complex psychotic disorders.

Research spending

- Australia spends \$6.1 million on schizophrenia research annually, representing 0.23% of the total cost of this disease, or less than one research dollar for every \$400 the disease costs.
- An additional \$11 million annually will fund APRN's national strategic research programme and make major, long term difference to the lives of patients and their families everywhere.

In Australia

- Schizophrenia alone costs the community \$2.62 billion annually.
- Schizophrenia alone costs government \$1.7 billion annually.
- 85% of patients remain reliant on welfare benefits
 - <10% are able to hold down full-time competitive employment.
- 70% of homeless people have a mental illness, frequently a psychotic illness.
- 60% of female and 44% of male prisoners are diagnosed with mental illness, frequently a psychotic illness.



'If you think research is expensive, try disease.'

Mary Lasker 1901-1994

APRN gratefully acknowledges the support of the following organisations:

