

Date 10th April 2012
Subject Partners in Depression program future secured thanks to continued funding partnership

Carers and loved ones of those experiencing depression across Australia will continue to have access to the successful *Partners in Depression* program following the announcement of an extended partnership between Hunter Institute of Mental Health (HIMH) and nib foundation.

Launched in 2009 following a \$1 million funding grant from nib foundation, the program has been rolled out nationally with 400 health professionals receiving training, resources and clinical support to deliver the program in their local communities.

This week nib foundation has announced an additional \$450,000 in funding that will allow HIMH to provide an enhanced suite of services including a peer support and ambassadors program, as well as a facilitator peer training pilot.

nib foundation Chairman, Terry Lawler said the foundation is delighted to continue its support of the Hunter-developed program that is already making a significant difference to the lives of many people across the country.

"To date, more than 1,000 people have completed the program with 98% of participants saying they would recommend it to others," Mr Lawler said.

"With one in six Australians experiencing depression at some stage in their life, the partnership between our organisations is addressing and providing real solutions to this growing health issue at a national level," he added.

Partners in Depression is a six-week evidence-based, support and educational program that aims to address the information and support needs of families and friends of people experiencing depression.

More than 170 groups have already been held throughout Australia since 2009. HIMH Director, Trevor Hazell said the additional funding will allow the organisation to continue to provide a national and sustainable approach to education and support for carers of people with depression.

"The national rollout has been extremely successful in providing relevant and meaningful support for carers," Mr Hazell said.

"The funding provided by nib foundation will now enable HIMH to continue raising awareness of *Partners in Depression* in the community and consolidate the network of country-wide facilitators that deliver the program."

For more information about the *Partners in Depression* program including local groups, visit www.partnersindepression.com.au

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