

# PRESS STATEMENT

7 December 2006

The Irish College of Psychiatrists broadly welcomes the statement by Minister O'Malley announcing additional funding of €25million for the ongoing implementation of 'A Vision for Change' and including the funding of a National Service Users Council.

Dr Kate Ganter, Chairperson of the Irish College of Psychiatrists said today, "However, we are very disappointed with the provision of just €7.95 million for the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. A figure of less than €8million does not meet the capital costs and revenues needed for one of the four promised inpatient units for under 16 year olds. To provide the four units will cost in the region of €38.8m. The Minister mentions the eight promised teams which will cost approximately the €7.95 million and this seems to be the only allocation for 16-17 year olds in today's announcement. The actual capital costs of units for these children has not been considered. The measures announced today and the funding being made available will do very little to alleviate the waiting lists for under 16yr olds."

We welcome the allocation of €2 million to the National Forensic Mental Health Services and the development of community services and the €1.85m for the National Office for Suicide Prevention.

€0.75m is a drop in the ocean for the Eating Disorder Services. This will not provide funding for a full multi-disciplinary team and inpatient services.

Likewise €3m for the mental health services for the older people, the homeless and people with an intellectual disability will only translate into roughly one multidisciplinary team for each area.

Finally we do welcome the focus on development on liaison mental health services in acute hospitals but the funding that would appear to be available is minimal.

Further information contact:

Wally Young, Young Communications, 01 668 0530, 087 247 1520