

THE HON CHRISTOPHER PYNE MP
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing

Ms Pieta Laut
Executive Director
Public Health Association of Australia Inc
PO Box 319
CURTIN ACT 2605

Dear Ms Laut

Thank you for your letter of 20 December 2005 regarding the Public Health Association of Australia's role in the promotion of public health and in particular your interest in prevention and early intervention in youth mental health. I regret the delay in responding.

I note your comments about the Association's interest in collaborating with the National Youth Mental Health Foundation as it determines priorities and engages with stakeholders.

I have forwarded your letter and the attached policy statements to Professor Patrick McGorry, Executive Director of ORYGEN Research Centre. ORYGEN is the lead organisation in the consortium that will establish and operate the Foundation.

One in four young Australians suffers from mental illness in any one year and three-quarters of all mental health problems begin before the age of 25 years. The Foundation will improve access for young people with mental health problems, including those with comorbid drug and alcohol problems, to appropriate services and ensure better coordination between services. The creation of a National Youth Mental Health Foundation is an important step forward in addressing issues around the mental health of young Australians.

I appreciate you writing on this matter and I look forward to working with your organisation in the future.

Yours sincerely



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