



# MEDIA RELEASE

## **Chris Hayes MP**

### **Federal Member for Werriwa Government Whip**

21 May 2010

#### **\$161,254 TO HELP PEOPLE WITH A MENTAL ILLNESS MOVE FORWARD IN THEIR LIVES**

Chris Hayes MP, Federal Member for Werriwa, today welcomed the announcement that people with a mental illness in Liverpool and Fairfield would benefit from \$161,254 in Federal funding.

Mr Hayes said the funding extension has been given to Break Thru People Solutions so it can continue its Care for Families program which helps people with a mental illness and their families and carers move forward in their lives. Break Thru People Solutions provides outreach services to its offices in Liverpool and Fairfield.

“The Care for Families program is unique in that it provides education and counselling services to the whole family unit, not just the person with a mental illness,” Mr Hayes said.

“It is extremely important that Governments at all levels continue to support people with a mental illness so they can fully participate in our community.”

Care for Families helps families and carers understand exactly what their family member is going through with their illness. The program also helps families develop communication skills and problem solving skills and provides referral and advocacy services.

Hoda Kobeissi, Program Manager from Break Thru People Solutions, said Care for Families made sure people with a mental illness have the support they need to move forward.

“This funding will enable Break Thru People Solutions to continue this successful program so people with a mental illness can lead more independent, productive and fulfilling lives,” Ms Kobeissi said.

For more information on the Care for Families program, please contact Ms Kobeissi on 9745 1529.