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MEDIA RELEASE: Tandem acknowledges The Victorian State Government achievements in Mental Health & Wellbeing Reform ONE YEAR ON

Today Tandem acknowledges the one-year anniversary since the historic delivery of the final report from the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System. It applauds the implementation of a range of initiatives to provide more support for families, carers and supporters, including young people providing support to a family member or friend.

Tandem CEO, Marie Piu welcomes [the announcement today](#) of a new 12-bed facility opening early next year in Grieve Street, Macleod, which will be staffed 24/7 to provide specialised mental health care and wellbeing services to children under 11 in an environment that allows them to stay with, and be supported by, their families.

Another important announcement is the [locations for the next 21 Local Adult and Older Adult Mental Health and Wellbeing Services](#) – a brand-new model of care that will see Victorians get the mental health support they need, as soon as they need it, close to home.

The local services will be established as a 'front door' to the reformed mental health and well-being system, providing early intervention support for those experiencing mental illness or psychological distress and their family, carers and supporters without needing a referral from a GP, and without the pressure of a clinical hospital emergency department.

Set to open from mid-2023, these additional 21 local centres will service key priority areas for support across metropolitan, outer-suburban and regional centres.

Tandem's Board Chair, Dr. Peter McKenzie also congratulated the Victorian government and added that "the Tandem Board is particularly positive about the move towards a model of 'relational practice' with Tandem involved in the design and delivery of 8 Family and Carer-led Centres across the state later this year. Peter said that "this recognises the importance of key relationships to good mental health."

Tandem CEO Marie Piu reflected that "The speed of reform has sometimes been daunting, particularly with the overlay of an international pandemic," however "We are pleased to see an authentic and unwavering commitment to reform which will potentially transform the lives of those living with mental health challenges and their family, carers and supporters."

"Tandem looks forward to continuing its work in partnership with Government, service providers and key peak bodies including VMIAC and Mental Health Victoria to bring about the cultural change required to ensure these reforms are codesigned, sustainable and have bipartisan support going forward."



Tandem is proud to be the trusted voice of family and friends in mental health in Victoria. As the Victorian peak body with a sole focus on the needs and interests of mental health carers, Tandem's role is to provide leadership, coordination and knowledge for the organisations and individuals who are working to improve outcomes for Victorian people living with mental health challenges.

Joining Tandem is free. Visit tandemcarers.org.au