

Submission to the Productive Commission

29 March, 2019

The Australia & New Zealand Academy for Eating Disorders (ANZAED) is the peak body for eating disorder professionals involved in research, prevention, treatment and advocacy in Australia, New Zealand and beyond. ANZAED fosters networking and professional development in the eating disorder field and aims to provide leadership and advocacy to improve the understanding, prevention and treatment of eating disorders.

We appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the Productivity Commission inquiry into Mental Health. Having just become aware of the call for submissions, we are only able to provide an abbreviated response by the 5 April deadline, but would welcome an opportunity to provide further comments after this date, should that be acceptable.

Our comments are as follows:

We draw your attention to Paying the Price: The economic and social impact of eating disorders in Australia conducted by Deloitte Access economics, for the Butterfly Foundation in 2012. <https://www2.deloitte.com/content/dam/Deloitte/au/Documents/Economics/deloitte-au-economics-paying-the-price-butterfly-foundation-301112.pdf>

This report was written with advice of an expert panel of 9, including three ANZAED Past Presidents. The following were stated in the report:

- * Mortality risk of eating disorders: The Report estimates 1,829 deaths occurred from eating disorders in 2012.
- * Health system expenditure for eating disorders was estimated to be \$99.9 million in 2012.
- * The productivity impacts of eating disorders were estimated as \$15.1 billion in 2012, similar to the productivity impacts of anxiety and depression.

The report suggests that these costs could be ameliorated by greater focus on treatment for eating disorders across acute and community care settings, including enhanced coverage of psychological and dietetic costs by Medicare and Private Health insurance.

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