

## **SPEAKING NOTES FOR THE MINISTER FOR SPORT**

**THE HON KATE ELLIS MP**

### **INAUGURAL WORLD CHILDREN OF PARENTS WITH A MENTAL ILLNESS (COPMI) AND 6TH NATIONAL CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE**

#### **OPENING VIDEO MESSAGE**

- Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.
- Unfortunately, due to parliamentary commitments I am unable to be with you in person but the wonders of technology allow me to send you my greetings as Minister for Early Childhood Education, Child Care and Youth and Federal Member with this video message.
- Firstly can I offer you all a very warm welcome to Australia and to my home town of Adelaide. And a further welcome to the Inaugural World Children of Parents with a Mental Illness or COP-MEE conference and the sixth National Child and Adolescent Mental Health Conference.
- This joint conference is a world first and I am very excited to be a part of it.
- I'd particularly like to take the opportunity to welcome the Chairman and representatives of AY-KAF-MUH, the International Consultation Group, COP-MEE staff and most importantly the families, carers, young people and children for whom this conference is all about.
- May I also welcome the many national and international experts who are attending and speaking at the conference. I thank you for taking the time out of your busy lives to attend this important event and share your expertise and experience with the conference.
- I think the large number of international visitors is reflective of the fact that promoting the mental health of children, young people and families is an important issue not just in Australia - but across the globe.
- Our children are our most precious resource and we have a responsibility to make sure that they grow up happy and healthy.
- No child should be held back because of illness, nor should they be held back because of the illness of their parents.
- It is essential that we nurture our children and provide the necessary support to their parents, to make sure our kids are given every opportunity to realise their full potential.
- Thankfully through your efforts, we can be confident that resources, support and understanding are available for the children of parents with mental illness in Australia.

- Once again I thank you for the opportunity to join you today via this video message and wish you all a rewarding and successful conference.
- Thank you.