



## **Mental Health Commission highlights the need for investment in specialist services for older people**

**Today is World Mental Health Day 2013 and the theme is “Mental Health and Older adults”**

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2013:** More focus is required on investing and developing specialist mental health services for older people according to the Mental Health Commission.

In a statement to mark World Mental Health Day (today, 10<sup>th</sup> October), the Chairman of the Mental Health Commission John Saunders said, “There have been many developments in the general areas of mental health service provision, particularly for children & adolescents and adults (18 – 65), however specialist services for older people need more attention.”

A Vision for Change clearly sets out fourteen recommendations in relation to the service provision of mental health care to older people, and many of those recommendations have yet to be implemented in full. I hope that some of the proposed development funding allocated to mental health services in 2014 can be directed toward fully implementing these recommendations,” said Mr Saunders.

The theme of World Mental Health Day this year is “Mental Health and Older adults”. World Mental Health Day is a global awareness campaign which aims to encourage governments and organisations around the world, in countries at all income levels, to look at the mental health issues experienced by older people in their communities and to consider their needs for supports and services.

**ENDS**

For further information contact:

Murray Consultants  
Mark Brennock  
Aoibheann O’Sullivan

01 498 0300  
087 233 5923  
087 6291453

**Note to the Editor:**

The Mental Health Commission is an independent statutory body. The primary functions of the Mental Health Commission are to foster and promote high standards of care and good practice in the delivery of mental health services and to ensure that the interests of those involuntarily admitted are protected, pursuant to the Mental Health Act 2001.