

**DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY
FACULTY OF MEDICINE, DENTISTRY AND HEALTH SCIENCES
THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE**

**Proposal for the establishment of a Faculty
CENTRE FOR YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH
and a
CHAIR OF YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH
in the Department of Psychiatry**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Department of Psychiatry at the University of Melbourne has over the past 15 years developed a national and international reputation in the field of youth mental health under the leadership of Prof Patrick McGorry. This has been both in research and innovative service initiatives flowing from such research. The initial focus for the department's activities was in the field of the early stages of psychoses but in the past decade has expanded into the broader area of youth mental health focussing on disorders occurring in adolescent and young people in the 15-25 year age bracket. This work has received extensive external funding originally from NH&MRC project funding and industry support as well as a Vic Health Program Grant. In 2002 the Colonial Foundation backed the program as its major funding project with \$2.7 million per year for 5 years. ORYGEN Research Centre was created with three members (The Colonial Foundation, the University of Melbourne and Melbourne Health) as the organisation to which these funds flowed, to create academic and research positions in the Department of Psychiatry as well as Melbourne Health. In 2004 the Department, through ORYGEN was successful in gaining an NH&MRC program grant (the first ever given in psychiatry in Victoria) and also an NH&MRC Centre for Clinical Excellence in Research grant (launched by the Governor General in October 2005). In 2005 ORYGEN Research Centre was successful as leader of a partnership involving the Brain and Mind Research Institute of the University of Sydney, the Australian Division of General Practice Limited and the Australian Psychological Society, with the University of Melbourne as the lead agency in competing to run a Commonwealth Government funded National Youth Mental Health Foundation. This foundation will receive \$54 million to June 2009 of Australian Government funding.

In recognition of this success and to provide a structure to run the foundation within the Faculty this proposal seeks to establish a Faculty Centre for Youth Mental Health to continue research, service development and training in this major area of academic and community activity of the Faculty (involving the School of Medicine's Departments of Psychiatry, Paediatrics and General Practice and the Schools of Behavioural Science and Population Health). Justification is also provided to establish a Chair in Youth Mental Health, who would be the Director of this new Centre. The new Chair would replace the current Professor/Director position of ORYGEN Youth Health at Melbourne Health.