Media Release

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New CEO, Jack Heath, starts work at SANE Australia

The new CEO of SANE Australia, Jack Heath, takes up his position today, affirming his commitment to SANE's mission to work for a better life for people affected by mental illness.

'I look forward to leading the team at SANE Australia to promote national wellbeing and give voice to the challenges and achievements of Australians affected by mental illness,' said Mr Heath on his first day heading up the national mental health charity.

Jack is widely-known and respected for his work in suicide prevention, and the promotion of mental health in young people. In 1996, he founded the Inspire Foundation which runs the Reachout.com youth mental health service. More recently, he established the Inspire Foundation in Ireland and in the United States where he was CEO from 2010-11. Jack also has extensive government experience as a senior adviser and speechwriter to Federal Ministers. He has received a number of awards in recognition of his work, including the Centenary Medal for his contribution to Australian society.

'We are delighted to welcome Jack to SANE Australia,' Mr Stan Wallis AC, Chairman of SANE Australia said on behalf of the Board.

'His commitment to the cause of people affected by mental illness, and recognised leadership in this area, will ensure that SANE can continue to grow and innovate in its work to improve understanding and inclusion of people affected by mental illness in Australian society, as well as to advocate for improved treatments and support.'

Jack Heath succeeds Barbara Hocking OAM, who has retired from SANE Australia after 17 years as Executive Director.