Dear Shadow Minister

I am writing to you to seek your support and commitment to improving services for people with Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) and their families in our State.

BPD is a debilitating mental illness which affects up to five percent of the population, and its effects are severe:

* 10% of people with BPD will die by suicide
* The life span of a person with BPD is almost two decades less than other Australians
* People with BPD have among the highest rates of drug and alcohol use, poor physical, sexual and reproductive health and high levels of unemployment.

In 2012, an expert committee worked with the National Health and Medical Research Council to develop the Clinical Practical Guideline for the Management of Borderline Personality Disorder.

This resulted in 63 recommendations covering BPD diagnosis, management, treatment and information for supporting carers and families, but they have not been implemented.

These Guidelines must be implemented across Australia as a priority mental health initiative. We seek your commitment to ensuring that they are implemented in this state.

The Guidelines require GPs, emergency department workers, psychologists and psychiatrists and other mental health clinicians to receive much needed training in the diagnosis and treatment of BPD.

Every person with BPD and their families should be able to access good clinical care from their public mental health service

With the correct diagnosis and appropriate, evidence based psychological treatment, people can and do recover from BPD, and go on to lead full and productive lives

Please give BPD the significance and attention it deserves when it comes to the planning and funding of mental health services in our State.

Yours sincerely