the COST of Mental illness

With this subject it’s make up your own number! I’ll just present the spectrum I think is relevant and you’re entitled to believe what you want.

You would think that there would seem to be some sort of conformity but it’s like everything else in “mainstream Psychiatry” - it’s all over the shop!

**Medibio Ltd.** estimates that, “**Mental health costs Australia more than $12 billion each year.**”

Australia is a western nation and it’s Gross Domestic Product is about $1⅔ trillion each year. I think that the figure is far in excess of that.

The following article claims that the cost of Mental Illness is actually **12% of Australia’s GDP** working out at **$207 billion** last year.

On the following page another estimate has been provided by Professor Alan FELS where he accepts the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development’s estimate of **4% of the Gross Domestic Product of a western nation** and has calculated that this equates to **$60 billion a year** for Australia!
“The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development estimates that the average overall cost of mental health problems to developed countries is about 4 per cent of GDP. In Australia, this would equate to more than $60 billion a year, or about $4000 for each person who lodges a tax return, or more than $10,000 a family.”

It was raised in a noteworthy speech to the National Press Club by Professor Allan FELS, now chairman of the National Mental Health Commission. FELS' point was that we've been making a hash of Mental Health for ages, but that if we got our act together, we could not only reduce the misery of up to 3.7 million Australians, but eventually do everyone else a favour.

FELS is, of course, a professor of economics. So he spoke with authority when he argued that mental health is not just a significant social issue – although that should be enough to make us pay attention – it's a significant economic problem as well!

"Mental health is a significant problem for our economy – as significant as, often more significant than, tax or micro-economic reform," he says. (More significant than tax? Not possible.)”

excerpted from The Sydney Morning Herald - Wednesday, August 12, 2015

* Australian newspaper Ross GITTINS - Economics Editor