



Fig 1: Mental illness refers to a wide range of mental health conditions and disorders that affect one's mood, thinking and behaviour. Examples of mental illness include depression, anxiety disorders, suicidal thoughts, schizophrenia, eating disorders, addictive behaviour and Alzheimer's disease.

The Mental Health Department is a unit under the Ministry of Health and Child Care. Its vision is to have the highest possible level of mental health and quality of life for all the citizens of Zimbabwe and a mission to provide for all Zimbabweans with a comprehensive, coordinated, quality mental health service that is integrated into the general medical system with the aim of improving the mental health of the nation . The Department of Mental Health Services coordinates provision of comprehensive mental health and psychiatric services (promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative) including substance abuse(Alcohol, Drug and Tobacco Control). This includes development, implementation and maintenance of national mental health and psychiatric care programmes, standards and regulations affecting the programme. It also provides professional and technical leadership, advice, support and supervision on mental health and psychiatric care areas (Table 1).

Table 1. Mental health facilities in Zimbabwe
(http://www.mohcc.gov.zw/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=160&Itemid=716)