

Our achievements

As part of our ongoing representation and advocacy on consumer and carer issues, the NMHCCF:

- Meets four times a year either face-to-face or by teleconference and runs working groups to progress individual projects in priority areas
- * Provides advice on specific national mental health initiatives and makes submissions on relevant national issues such as Senate Inquiries
- * Continues to advocate to increase consumer and carer representation at all levels from policy development to service delivery.

Consumer and Carer Participation Policy:

In 2004 we developed the *Consumer and Carer Participation Policy*.

It is a guide for people engaging the expertise of consumers and carers and it outlines how consumers and carers can most effectively contribute to the mental health policy debate.

The Policy aims to ensure that mental health consumers and carers are involved in decision making processes, policy development, practical support and education in the mental health sector in Australia. It was created using documents and policies developed by consumers and carers over the last 25 years.

For copies of the *Consumer and Carer Participation Policy* please see over.

Contacts

For further information on the membership and/or work program of the NMHCCF contact the Executive Officer telephone 02 6285 3100 or email nmhccf@mhca.org.au

Visit our website www.nmhccf.org.au

The NMHCCF was set up in 2002 by the Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council Mental Health Standing Committee (AHMAC MHSC). It is funded through contributions from each state and territory government and the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing. It is currently auspiced by the Mental Health Council of Australia.



To work effectively, NMHCCF representatives need to hear from their constituents and discuss local and national mental health concerns.

Your local contact is:



**NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH
CONSUMER & CARER FORUM**

**A COMBINED NATIONAL VOICE
FOR MENTAL HEALTH
CONSUMERS AND CARERS**

listen
learn
share
identify
ensure
work
distribute

The National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Forum (NMHCCF) is the *combined national voice for consumers and carers participating in the development of mental health policy and sector development in Australia.*

The NMHCCF gives mental health consumers and carers the opportunity to meet, form partnerships and be involved in the development and implementation of mental health policy reform.

Our aims

To utilise our lived experience and unique expertise in mental health to identify what does and does not work in the mental health sector.

To identify important and innovative ways to bring about positive change within the mental health system.

To be a powerful, respected, combined national voice for mental health consumers and carers.

Our membership

One representative mental health consumer and carer from each Australian state and territory and representatives from the following national health consumer and carer organisations:

- ~ Australian Mental Health Consumer Network
- ~ blueVoices, the consumer and carer reference group for *beyondblue: the national depression initiative*
- ~ Carers Australia
- ~ Consumers Health Forum of Australia
- ~ GROW Australia
- ~ Mental Health Carers Arafmi Australia
- ~ Private Mental Health Consumer Carer Network (Aust).

Our purpose

Enhance, promote and progress genuine national partnerships and the recognition of mental health consumers and carers at all levels of government and community.

Provide ways to improve access to and sharing of relevant information between national networks and organisations.

Strengthen and develop the mental health consumer and carer focus of entities at the national, state and local levels.

Increase meaningful opportunities for and capacity of mental health consumers and carers to advocate for and participate in legislation and policy development, implementation and evaluation at all levels.

Provide an informed strong and unified voice on consumer and carer issues to government, the mental health sector and other stakeholders.

Identify best practice, protect human rights, highlight deficiencies and influence positive systemic change for the recognition and benefit of consumer and carer participation at all levels.

Develop and agree to national principles and priorities of action and strategies aligned with National Mental Health Plans.

What we do

Listen to the issues and concerns of our state/territory and stakeholder group representatives.

Learn about what is happening in mental health for consumers and carers in each state/territory and internationally.

Share experience, knowledge and resources with our members and stakeholders.

Identify priority areas for action.

Ensure that issues and concerns of consumers and carers are acknowledged and addressed as part of the national policy development process in Australia.

Work with our networks to progress the agenda of mental health consumers and carers.

Distribute information on this work to our members and their networks nationally.

For the latest information on priority areas including our Strategic Plan and current activities please see the NMHCCF links on the website www.nmhccf.org.au.