



## National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Forum (NMHCCF) Report

**Name of Delegate:**

**State / Territory:**

**Date of meeting: 26-27 March 2009**

**Venue: Chifley on South Terrace, Adelaide**

**Consumer / Carer Representative (please circle)**

### **Key Issues Discussed:**

#### **Forward Plan 2009-2011**

Forward planning was the largest item of the agenda and part of the session was facilitated by the independent consultant who had worked with the NMHCCF Planning Working Group to finalise the draft Forward Plan into four key areas of work:

- Undertake a *National Audit on the Effectiveness of Consumer and Carer Participation* in the planning and delivery of mental health policies and services across Australia;
- Prepare a set of advocacy briefs on key consumer and carer issues;
- Identify Consumer and Carer Priorities in Mental Health – development of a National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Accountability Framework
- Prepare a Position Paper on the cost benefits and opportunities for involving consumers and carers in the mental health workforce

NMHCCF members endorsed the four key areas, with further work to be undertaken by the Secretariat on refining proposed timelines and terms of reference for each of these projects. A copy of the finalised Forward Plan 2009-2011 will be available at:

<http://www.nmhccf.org.au/forward-planning> when complete.

NMHCCF members agreed to prioritise the development of 10 initial advocacy briefs by 1 July 2009. These will be available at: <http://www.nmhccf.org.au/advocacy-briefs>.

#### **Seclusion and Restraint**

Members endorsed the *NMHCCF Statement on Seclusion and Restraint in Mental Health Services* developed by the NMHCCF Seclusion & Restraint Working Group and recommended it be distributed for consultation. (The consultation paper is available for comments until end July 2009 at: <http://www.nmhccf.org.au>.)

The *Statement* was be distributed to attendees at the National Seclusion and Restraint Project national forum on 6 May 2009 and members agreed to develop a media release and/or launch when the *Statement* is finalised.

#### **NMHCCF Website**

Members commented on a mock-up of the NMHCCF website and provided input on final design. The website at <http://www.nmhccf.org.au> will be 'live' by end June 2009. This will be the first time the NMHCCF has had an independent online presence.

### **Mental Health Standing Committee (MHSC) and 4<sup>th</sup> National Mental Health Plan Reference Group meetings**

The MHSC consumer and carer representatives provided feedback to members on these recent meetings and on the strengthened relationship between the MHSC and NMHCCF through the representatives' presence at MHSC meetings.

### **NMHCCF Governance Issues**

NMHCCF members considered a range of governance issues at this meeting. The election process for Co-Chair and Deputy Co-Chair positions was reviewed as were a number of requests from organisations to join the NMHCCF. These will be clarified in the update of the NMHCCF Operating Guidelines in July 2009. Members agreed to refer the issue of membership to the MHSC for guidance as the funding body for the NMHCCF.

### **Report back from IIMHL**

Members who attended the 2009 IIMHL meeting in Brisbane reported that the consumer forum was worthwhile and the peer support forum was very successful. There was some discussion about the 2010 IIMHL meeting being held in Ireland and that there may be limited opportunities for Australian consumers and carers to attend unless there is substantial funding available.

### **Privacy & Confidentiality Issues Paper**

Under its 2007-08 Strategic Plan, NMHCCF identified privacy and confidentiality as an issue of concern for mental health consumers and carers and agreed to undertake a literature review and develop an issues paper. A consortium of the Psychosocial Research Centre of University of Melbourne, Victorian Mental Illness Awareness Council (VMIAAC) and the Victorian Mental Health Carers Network (VMHCN), have been appointed to develop this issues paper with a view to developing a NMHCCF position paper on privacy and confidentiality. This should be finalised by August 2009.

### **Business Planning**

Consultants have commenced work on the NMHCCF Business Plan thanks to additional funding provided by the Australian Government Department of Health & Ageing. This plan will complement the NMHCCF Forward Plan 2009-2011 by identifying and clarifying the role and the services that the NMHCCF provides its constituents and exploring the sustainability of the NMHCCF including options for realising potential income streams for funding support.

### **Key Decisions Made:**

- Member endorsement of the NMHCCF Forward Plan 2009-2011 and commencement of Business Plan.
- Membership of NMHCCF referred to MHSC.
- Next NMHCCF teleconference will be on 24 June 2009.

### **Actions Required:**

- Forward Plan 2009-2011 actions will be the key area of focus for the NMHCCF over coming months.
- NMHCCF Operating Guidelines for major review in July 2009.