



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

<b>Name of Delegate:</b>
<b>State / Territory / Organisation:</b>
<b>Date of meeting: 12-13 September 2016</b>
<b>Consumer / Carer Representative (please circle)</b>
<p><b>Issues and outcomes from the September 2016 meeting:</b></p> <p><b>Reports from MOU Partners</b></p> <p>Members welcomed their MOU partners to the NMHCCF meeting, including; Frank Quinlan, CEO of Mental Health Australia; David Butt, CEO of the National Mental Health Commission (NMHC); and, Matthew Wright, CEO of the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO). MOU partners provided updates on their current work and priorities – further information about each organisation can be found at; <a href="http://www.mhaustralia.org">www.mhaustralia.org</a>; <a href="http://www.mentalhealthcommission.gov.au">www.mentalhealthcommission.gov.au</a>; <a href="http://www.afdo.org.au">www.afdo.org.au</a>.</p> <p>The NMHCCF also took the opportunity to farewell David Butt as CEO of the NMHC; he will be moving to the role of CEO of the National Rural Health Alliance. Peggy Brown has recently been announced as the new CEO of the NMHC.</p> <p><b>Reasonable Adjustments</b></p> <p>Michael Burge, NMHCCF member, discussed reasonable adjustments for people with a psychosocial disability in the workforce, highlighting the widespread lack of awareness of the exact meaning and impact of reasonable adjustments, and failures in the current system for people with a psychosocial disability. The issue of reasonable adjustments was adopted by the Rights, Disability &amp; Mental Health Working Group, with a view to producing an advocacy brief and an article for the Australian Journal on Psychosocial Rehabilitation, New Paradigm.</p> <p><b>Productivity Inquiry into Human Services</b></p> <p>Margaret Springgay, NMHCCF member, discussed the Productivity Commission's inquiry into Australia's human services. The fundamental relationship between Australia's human services and the care and support of people with mental illness across health, education and community services was highlighted. NMHCCF members agreed to submit a paper to the inquiry highlighting issues relevant to mental health consumers and carers. More information on the inquiry can be found at the Productivity Commission's website, <a href="http://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/human-services">www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/human-services</a>.</p> <p><b>Being NMHCCF Advocates – Skills, Tools and Capacity Building</b></p> <p>Lorraine Powell, Chair of the Communication, Partnerships and Promotion Working Group (CPPWG) discussed skills, tools and capacity building for NMHCCF members. NMHCCF members reflected on their strengths and the areas they would like to develop their skills, tools and capacity further. The distinction between the activities, outputs and outcomes of the NMHCCF was also explored. The CPPWG will continue to progress key activities related to the promotion of the NMHCCF, such as the elevator speech, updated brochure, business cards and development of a skills matrix.</p> <p><b>NDIS and Mental Health</b></p> <p>Janet Meagher, NMHCCF member and member of both the NDIS Independent Advisory Council and the NDIA Mental Health Sector Reference Group (NMHSRG), provided an update on current issues relating to the NDIS. The potential benefits of increased choice and control for consumers</p>

in the NDIS were highlighted, as well as the importance of maintaining state and territory government services for consumers who are not within the scope of the NDIS. The most recent NMHSRG communique can be accessed at, <https://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/information-publications-and-reports/mental-health-sector-reference-group>.

NMHCCF members Debra Sobott and Lorraine Powell also discussed issues related to the NDIS, focussing on current statistics from WA. The current and potential gaps in the system were explored, both in terms of insufficient funding for the NDIS and subsequent denial of NDIS funding packages for people with a psychosocial disability and their carers. NMHCCF members also provided feedback and examples of issues relating to the NDIS and service provision in their local states and territories.

### **National Mental Health Reform Stakeholders Advisory Group Update**

The NMHCCF representatives on the Mental Health Reform Stakeholders Group, Janet Meagher and Eileen McDonald, provided an update on their activities, focussing on those relating to Primary Health Networks (PHNs). The PHN guidance document on consumer and carer engagement and participation was developed with the advice of the Group and has now been released, while the peer work guidance document is still being finalised prior to release. NMHCCF members were encouraged to stay updated on PHN activities and publications via the PHN website, <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/PHN-Home>.

### **Fifth National Mental Health Plan Update**

Members welcomed Dr Aaron Groves from the Mental Health Drug and Alcohol Principal Committee (MHDAPC), who provided an update on the development of the Fifth National Mental Health Plan. He outlined the Plan's priority areas and the proposed timeframe and formal stakeholder consultation process. NMHCCF members highlighted key concerns, such as the level of community consultation and engagement, the inclusion of vulnerable groups such as CALD communities, and the importance of evaluation mechanisms being incorporated into the Plan.

Shane Porter and Simon Cleverley from the Department of Health also spoke about the development of the Plan, and encouraged NMHCCF members to contact them directly with any further feedback and their state/territory liaison officer regarding local consultation opportunities.

### **National Committees/Initiatives**

Updates were provided from NMHCCF representatives involved in the following national committees, activities and events:

- NDIS Independent Advisory Council
- NDIA Mental Health Sector Reference Group
- National Mental Health Reform Stakeholders Advisory Group
- The Fifth National Mental Health Plan Drafting Group
- Psychotherapy and Counselling Federation of Australia (PACFA) Conference

### **Guest speakers**

- Frank Quinlan, CEO Mental Health Australia
- David Butt, CEO National Mental Health Commission
- Maureen Lewis, Executive Director National Mental Health Commission
- Matthew Wright, CEO Australian Federation of Disability Organisations
- Dr Aaron Groves, member of the Mental Health Drug and Alcohol Principal Committee
- Shane Porter and Simon Cleverley, Australian Government Department of Health

### **Key Actions and Decisions Made:**

- The NMHCCF agreed to progress an advocacy brief and journal article on the topic of reasonable adjustments, led by the Rights, Disability & Mental Health Working Group
- The NMHCCF agreed to produce a submission to the Productivity Commission's Inquiry into human services, led by the Psychosocial Disability Working Group
- NMHCCF members to ensure all necessary reporting mechanisms are in place with their state/territory or organisation

- NMHCCF working groups to spill current chair positions and nominate new co-chairs for each working group (preferably a consumer and a carer co-chair for each group)
- NMHCCF working groups to progress activities identified in their work plans
- NMHCCF members to contact their local state/territory liaison officers regarding upcoming Fifth National Mental Health Plan consultations
- The next NMHCCF meeting will be in March 2017; location to be confirmed