



National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Forum (NMHCCF) Report

Name of Delegate:
State / Territory / Organisation:
Date of meeting: 15-16 March 2018
Consumer / Carer Representative (please circle)
Issues and outcomes from the March 2018 meeting: New NMHCCF Executive Committee This was the first meeting for the newly elected NMHCCF Executive Committee and the start of their two-year term. NMHCCF 2018-2020 Executive Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consumer Co-Chair Lorraine Powell• Carer Co-Chair Emma Donaldson• Deputy Consumer Co-Chair Lyn English• Deputy Carer Co-Chair Elida Meadows• Consumer Ordinary member Jan West• Carer Ordinary member Katrina Clarke Issues of importance for consumers and carers – discussion with the Hon Greg Hunt MP Members spoke with the Minister for Health via teleconference, discussing the role of the NMHCCF and how they could work with him. The Minister emphasised his commitment to the NMHCCF and the importance of consumer and carer involvement in all mental health initiatives. He encouraged NMHCCF members to speak with their states/territories about funding for psychosocial support services. He also encouraged the NMHCCF to identify gaps related to psychosocial support, workforce, and stigma and discrimination programs. Reports from MOU Partners Members welcomed their MOU partners to the NMHCCF meeting, including; Frank Quinlan, CEO of Mental Health Australia and Catherine Brown from the National Mental Health Commission. MOU partners provided updates on their current work and priorities and discussed ways they can work with the NMHCCF going forward. Information about each organisation can be found at www.mhaustralia.org ; www.mentalhealthcommission.gov.au . Effective and safe participation and engagement for people with a lived experience This project will provide advice to the National Mental Health Commission on ways to support individuals with a lived experience to effectively and safely participate in consumer and carer engagement. David Butt, project consultant, discussed project findings to date and sought NMHCCF member feedback. Members highlighted a range of issues, including the need for and importance of cultural change, respect and understanding, reducing stigma and discrimination, reasonable adjustments, supportive workplaces, training, and remuneration. National activities and opportunities related to the implementation of the Carer Guide NMHCCF member Patrick Hardwick provided background information about the 'Practical Guide for Working with Carers of People with a Mental Illness' and the activities supporting its implementation, including demonstration projects, eLearning modules, an app, and the 'Working with carers and families' website http://workingwithfamiliesandcarers.com.au/ .

The mental health phase of care, different stages in the consumer journey

The mental health phase of care concept was developed in 2012, through a project commissioned by the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority (IHPA). The final Mental Health Phase of Care Instrument was tested in late 2015 as part of the development of the Australian Mental Health Care Classification. Tim Coombs spoke to members about the project to refine the existing mental health phase of care concept and supporting materials. Members provided feedback on the current definitions in the Mental Health Phase of Care instrument.

Peer work and the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

Members discussed the impact NDIS implementation is having on the peer workforce, including:

- peer workers being asked to change work roles, to care support workers
- reduced pay for peer workers
- peer workers being asked to do things “for” consumers not “with”
- organisations stating that peer support roles are unsustainable under NDIS funding.

Community of Peers Project

The Private Mental Health Consumer Carer Network (Australia) has formed a Consortium with the NMHCCF and the National Mental Health Commission to undertake a feasibility study into the establishment of a member based organisation for the peer workforce in Australia. NMHCCF members Heather Nowak and Lyn English provided an update on the project and highlighted the consultations occurring across Australia. Further information about the project can be found at <http://pmhccn.com.au/PeerProject.aspx>.

NMHCCF Strategic Plan and Workplan 2018-2021

Members considered and discussed the draft NMHCCF Strategic Plan and Workplan. Further work will be completed out of session by the Strategic Plan Working Group.

National Committees/Initiatives

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

- IHPA meeting about the Mental Health Phase of Care
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Information Development Expert Advisory Panel
- Equally Well Implementation Committee
- Safety & Quality Partnership Standing Committee
- The Australian Commission Safety & Quality in Health Care Mental Health Advisory Group
- National Mental Health Reform Stakeholder Advisory Group

Guest speakers

- Frank Quinlan, CEO Mental Health Australia
- Catherine Brown, National Mental Health Commission
- The Hon Greg Hunt MP, Minister for Health (via teleconference)
- David Butt, project consultant, Effective and safe participation and engagement for people with a lived experience
- Tim Coombs, consultant at the Australian Mental Health Outcomes and Classification Network (AMHOCN)

Key Actions and Decisions Made:

- Members to develop a one page proposal for the Minister for Health regarding additional NMHCCF funding
- Members to write to the National Disability Insurance Agency about the impact NDIS implementation is having on the mental health peer workforce
- NMHCCF Strategic Plan Working Group to review revisions to the draft Strategic Plan and Workplan 2018-2021
- The next NMHCCF meeting will be a one day meeting focused on NMHCCF working group activities. The meeting will be held on 22 June 2018.