



MEDIA RELEASE

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Consumers and carers must be included in mental health reforms

The National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Forum (NMHCCF) is calling for the views of people with a lived experience of mental illness and those who care for them to be included in the proposed working groups following the release of the National Mental Health Commission's Review of Mental Health Programmes and Services.

"We welcome the release of this Report," NMHCCF Consumer Co-Chair Lyn English said. "The approach by the Commonwealth Government to develop a considered and unified strategy to deliver a genuine national approach to mental health, which is both consultative and collaborative, is to be commended.

"However, when considering the Commission's Report, Ministers must consult with consumers and carers." NMHCCF members have a lived experience of mental illness or caring for someone with a mental illness. NMHCCF also represent an extensive network of consumers and carers and are in a unique position to identify what does and doesn't work in the mental health sector. They can provide expertise through collective knowledge when considering the recommendations from the Commission's review.

"The NMHCCF are ready to actively work alongside government and key stakeholders to ensure the much needed reform is undertaken. We can no longer passively watch as consumers and carers slip through unnecessary and debilitating cracks." NMHCCF Carer Co-Chair Elida Meadows said.

The NMHCCF can advance meaningful communication through their state and territory networks, national organisations and stakeholder groups and work to ensure the issues and concerns of mental health consumers and carers are acknowledged and addressed as part of the national policy development process in Australia.

For more information please contact Kathryn Sequoia, Executive Officer on 02 6285 3100

The National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Forum (NMHCCF) is a united, independent and national voice of consumers and carers committed to reforming mental health in Australia.

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