



National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Forum (NMHCCF) Report

Name of Delegate:
State / Territory / Organisation:
Date of meeting: 17-18 March 2014
Consumer / Carer Representative (please circle)
Key issues discussed: National Mental Health Commission Members welcomed Georgie Harman, Deputy CEO of the Commission to the NMHCCF meeting on Day 2. Georgie provided an update on the following Commission projects and activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Review of Mental Health Programmes and Services• Seclusion and Restraint Project• National Contributing Life Project• Peer workforce projects• 2013 Report Card• Suicide Attempts Research Project• Mentally Healthy Workplace Alliance initiative <p>The NMHCCF discussed issues and opportunities for working with the National Mental Health Commission and look forward to providing a submission to the National Review of Mental Health Programmes and Services. Further information about the submission process and the terms of reference can be found at: https://consultations.health.gov.au/national-mental-health-commission/2014_mh_review.</p> National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) The NMHCCF has been involved in the Mental Health Council of Australia (MHCA) NDIS Capacity Building Project, assisting with the development of the following information resources for mental health consumers and carers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introducing the National Disability Insurance Scheme• The National Disability Insurance Scheme and mental health: Am I eligible for support?• The National Disability Insurance Scheme and mental health: Achieving your goals• The National Disability Insurance Scheme and mental health: What services can I choose? <p>These fact sheets have been circulated to consumers and carers and can be found on the MHCA website, http://mhca.org.au/general/national-disability-insurance-scheme-resources-consumers-and-carers.</p> <p>NMHCCF members agreed that the implementation of the NDIS is a prominent national issue for mental health consumers and carers and recommended that this be included on the program for the joint NMHCCF and National Register Workshop/Issues Forum on 22-23 May 2014.</p> Consumer Reference Group (CRG) – National Mental Health Consumer Organisation Establishment Project The CRG are working in partnership with the MHCA (project auspice) to establish the new national mental health consumer organisation. NMHCCF members welcomed Ian Watts, Chair of the CRG, who attended the meeting on Day 2 to provide an update on project progress. Members discussed the differences between the new organisation and the NMHCCF and the future relationship with the new consumer organisation. Further information on the progress of the project can be found on the website: www.mhconsumer.org.au .

Friend of the Forum

Robyn Kruk, previous CEO of the National Mental Health Commission, attended the meeting on Day 1 to discuss the potential for her to assist the NMHCCF and provide support on strategic priorities and business processes over the next 12 months. Members agreed that Robyn's advice and support would be valuable and welcomed Robyn as an official "Friend of the Forum".

Consumer and Carer Leadership

The National Mental Health Commission, in partnership with the MHCA and with support of the NMHCCF, are developing a leadership program for mental health consumers and carers who have the capabilities, experience and/or potential to operate at the national level and to work with and contribute to the National Mental Health Commission's vision and mission. At this meeting, NMHCCF members provided information and advice to the co-sponsors of the program on lessons they have learnt as leaders and provided input in relation to training scenarios for leadership or orientation to the sector and ways that the NMHCCF can support and contribute to the program. More information can be found on the National Mental Health Commission website, <http://www.mentalhealthcommission.gov.au/our-work/national-mental-health-leaders-program.aspx>

Smoking bans in inpatient mental health units

NMHCCF members acknowledged and discussed the issue of banning smoking in inpatient mental health units and the impact this has on consumers and carers. The NMHCCF have recently published an advocacy brief on Smoking and Mental Health which outlines their position and includes key recommendations (<http://www.nmhccf.org.au/advocacy-briefs>). Members agreed to write a covering letter to attach to the advocacy brief that can be circulated to Ministers and state/territory health departments outlining the NMHCCF position on the issue and calling for action on recommendations.

National Committees/Initiatives

Updates were provided from representatives on 13 national committees including:

- Mental Health Drug & Alcohol Principal Committee (MHDAPC) stakeholder session
- Safety and Quality Partnerships Standing Committee (SQPSC)
- Mental Health Workforce Reform Program Project Advisory Group (HWA PAG)
- Health Workforce Australia Technical Working Group (HWA TWG)
- Mental Health Professional Online Development (MHPOD 3) National Expert Group
- Mental Health Subject Matter Expert Group (SMEG) – Community Services & Health Industry Skills Council
- Independent Hospital Pricing Authority (IHPA) Mental Health Working Group

Guest speakers

- Frank Quinlan, CEO of Mental Health Council of Australia
- Robyn Kruk, previous CEO of the National Mental Health Commission
- Ian Watts, Chair of the Consumer Reference Group
- Liz Ruck, MHCA Senior Policy Officer & Manager of NDIS Capacity Building Project Manager
- Georgie Harman, Deputy CEO of the National Mental Health Commission

Key Actions and Decisions Made:

- NMHCCF endorsed and welcomed Robyn Kruk as a 'Friend of the Forum'
- NMHCCF members to write a submission to the National Review of Mental Health Programmes and Services
- NMHCCF members to recommend to the NMHCCF and National Register Workshop Working Group that the NDIS be included on the program for the joint Issues Forum/Workshop on 22-23 May 2014
- NMHCCF members to circulate 'Smoking and Mental Health' Advocacy Brief with a covering letter to call for action on the key recommendations
- NMHCCF to progress drafting a new Business Plan and Communications Strategy, to be completed by 30 June 2014
- Next NMHCCF teleconference will be held on Thursday 19 June 2014.