



National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Forum (NMHCCF) Report

Name of Delegate:
State / Territory / Organisation:
Date of meeting: 16-17 March 2015
Consumer / Carer Representative (please circle)
<p>Issues and outcomes from the March 2015 meeting:</p> <p>NMHCCF Business Plan and Strategy 2015-2017</p> <p>The NMHCCF Business Plan and Strategy for 2015-2017 was endorsed unanimously at this meeting. The NMHCCF Strategy identifies six approaches, each with core activities and expected outcomes. These six approaches include collaboration, promotion, capacity, advocacy, practices and knowledge. The next step is to populate a more detailed work plan to accompany these documents and this is being drafted out of session.</p> <p>NMHCCF members identified the following six priority areas for future work plan activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person centred approaches • Promote consumer and carer participation • Social inclusion and recovery • Psychosocial disability • Peer workforce • Rights, disability and mental health. <p>In addition to these, it was agreed that NMHCCF partnerships and alliances remain a focus, with marketing and communication tasks embedded within all six priority areas. The NMHCCF will also ensure that comprehensive research informs its position and all work.</p> <p>The new NMHCCF Business Plan and Strategy will be available on the NMHCCF website in April and notification of this will be sent out.</p> <p>NMHCCF website</p> <p>The new NMHCCF website has been developed and is near completion. At this meeting, feedback was sought from members on the content and features and it is anticipated the website will be launched publically by the end of April 2015. The website address will remain the same, www.nmhccf.org.au.</p> <p>National Mental Health Commission</p> <p>Members welcomed David Butt, CEO of the National Mental Health Commission (NMHC) to the NMHCCF meeting on 16 March 2015. NMHCCF members acknowledged the limitations on what David could report whilst the findings of the <i>2014 National Review of Mental Health Programmes and Services</i> has not been released or publically responded to by Government. However, of interest to consumers and carers was information that the NMHC are drafting a short report on the 2013 Report Card and the 18 recommendations for action. The NMHCCF and the NMHC have a Memorandum of Understanding in place until 30 June 2015 and it was agreed this will need updating as necessary prior to re-signing.</p>

Mental Health Information Strategy Standing Committee (MHISSC)

Members welcomed Grant Sara, Chair of MHISSC to the meeting on 16 March 2015. Grant provided an overview of the roles and responsibilities of the MHISSC and discussed how MHISSC could work more closely with the NMHCCF to ensure consumers and carer perspectives continue to be central to their work.

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and Mental Health

Gerry Naughtin, Chief Executive of Mind Australia and Janet Meagher, NMHCCF member, presented on current issues relating to the NDIS and mental health. Gerry and Janet are the NDIS Independent Advisory Council members on the NDIA Mental Health Sector Reference Group. They spoke about NDIS implementation issues and progress as well as key design and operational issues, including definitions and standard instruments of assessment. The NDIS support system and how this relates to people with a psychosocial disability is an important area of focus for the NMHCCF and members agreed to be updated on mental health related work of the NDIS Independent Advisory Council at face to face meetings into the future.

National Mental Health Commission Future Leaders in Mental Health Initiative

Janet Meagher and Michael Burge provided an update on behalf of the National Mental Health Commission Future Leaders in Mental Health group. Janet is a project co-sponsor and Michael is a project participant. They highlighted the range of development opportunities the group participated in over the last year and spoke of the positive feedback provided by participants during their final meeting and graduation ceremony in February 2015. The NMHCCF commended the National Mental Health Commission for the Future Leaders in Mental Health Initiative and agreed to write a letter strongly recommending funding for another program in 2015-16.

National Committees/Initiatives

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

- Mental Health Drug & Alcohol Principal Committee (MHDAPC) stakeholder session
- Safety and Quality Partnerships Standing Committee (SQPSC)
- Community Mental Health Australia (CMHA) Board
- Champions of Mental Health Peer Work Initiative
- Mental Health Australia Members Policy Forum and Parliamentary Advocacy Day
- Mental Health Professional Online Development (MHPOD 3) National Expert Group
- Consumer Reference Group for the National Mental Health Consumer Organisation Establishment Project

Key Actions and Decisions Made:

- NMHCCF to work more closely with the Mental Health Information Strategy Standing Committee (MHISSC).
- NMHCCF members endorsed the People with Disability and Mental Illness Joint NGO Submission to Australia's 2nd Universal Periodic Review, in particular section 9 related to people with disability and mental illness.
- The new NMHCCF website will go live in April 2015.
- NMHCCF members endorsed the new Business Plan and Strategy for 2015-2017.
- NMHCCF members to populate and finalise a work plan detailing the goals, actions and outcomes for 2015-17, to be based on the NMHCCF Strategy.
- NMHCCF to review and update current MOUs with Mental Health Australia and the National Mental Health Commission.
- Next NMHCCF teleconference will be held on Thursday 18 June 2015.