



**NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH
CONSUMER & CARER FORUM**

National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Forum (NMHCCF) Report

Name of Delegate:
State / Territory / Organisation:
Date of meeting: 2-3 March 2017
Consumer / Carer Representative (please circle)
<p>Issues and outcomes from the March 2017 meeting:</p> <p>Attendance by the Minister’s adviser on mental health Members welcomed Tina McGuffie, Minister for Health’s adviser on mental health, to the NMHCCF meeting. NMHCCF members provided insights from the mental health consumer and carer sector in relation to national mental health reform. Key topics included Primary Health Networks (PHNs), National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), peer workforce, and the importance of including the views and knowledge of people with lived experience in every aspect of mental health reform.</p> <p>Tina McGuffie was grateful for the opportunity to hear directly from consumers and carers and invited NMHCCF Executive members to meet with herself and Greg Hunt, Minister for Health, in the near future.</p> <p>Reports from MOU Partners Members welcomed NMHCCF MOU partners to the meeting, including Frank Quinlan, CEO of Mental Health Australia, and Peggy Brown, CEO of the National Mental Health Commission (NMHC). MOU partners provided updates on their current work and priorities – further information about each organisation can be found at www.mhaustralia.org and www.mentalhealthcommission.gov.au.</p> <p>National Mental Health Reform Stakeholders Advisory Group Update The consumer and carer representatives on the National Mental Health Reform Stakeholders Advisory Group, Janet Meagher and Eileen McDonald, provided an update on their activities, focussing on those relating to Primary Health Networks (PHNs). Guidance material to support PHNs to implement primary mental health care reform activities and manage flexible funding is now available on the Department of Health website here http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/PHN-Mental_Tools.</p> <p>NMHCCF members took the opportunity to thank recently resigned NMHCCF consumer representative, Janet Meagher for her tireless efforts in advocating for mental health consumers and carers in mental health reform.</p> <p>NDIS and Mental Health Janet Meagher, Ex-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. Janet highlighted the benefits of NDIS participants self-managing their plans and being able to choose supports they require rather than selecting from lists of supports that may not be appropriate.</p> <p>Janet Milford, NMHCCF member, shared a personal good news story relating to support received through the NDIS for her son.</p>

Issues for people with private health insurance update

Patrick Hardwick and Norm Wotherspoon, NMHCCF members representing the Private Mental Health Consumer and Carer Network (PMHCCN), provided an update, highlighting current discriminatory practices and continual increases in premiums for mental health consumers with private health insurance. NMHCCF members agreed to co-sign a letter being drafted by the PMHCCN to the Minister for Health, and other political leaders.

Digital Mental Health Gateway Update

Emma Donaldson, NMHCCF representative on the Digital Mental Health Gateway Core Community Group, provided an update on recent developments following strong NMHCCF advocacy in relation to the Digital Mental Health Gateway.

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
- Safety & Quality Partnership Standing Committee
- Australian Commission Safety & Quality Health Care Mental Health Advisory Group
- NSW Mental Health Commission Consumer & Carer Engagement Steering Group

NMHCCF Working Group Activities

The following NMHCCF working groups met on the second day of the March 2017 meeting to progress priorities and actions from the NMHCCF Workplan:

- Communication, Partnerships and Promotion Working Group
- Consumer and Carer Participation Working Group
- Psychotropic Iatrogenic Disorders Advocacy and Working Group
- Rights and Practices Working Group (previously two separate groups, the Rights, Disability & Mental Health Working Group and the Psychosocial Disability Working Group)

Guest speakers

- Tina McGuffie, Minister's advisor on mental health
- Frank Quinlan, CEO Mental Health Australia
- Peggy Brown, CEO National Mental Health Commission

Key Actions and Decisions Made:

- The NMHCCF Executive to arrange a meeting with the Minister for Health and his advisor on mental health.
- The NMHCCF agreed to co-sign a letter with PMHCCN to the Minister for Health and other political leaders regarding discriminatory practices in health insurance.
- The next NMHCCF meeting will be a one day meeting focused on NMHCCF working group activities. The meeting will be held in Sydney on Friday 23 June 2017.