



NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH CONSUMER & CARER FORUM

National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Forum (NMHCCF) Report

Name of Delegate:

State / Territory / Organisation:

Date of meeting: 12-13 September 2014

Consumer / Carer Representative (please circle)

Key issues discussed:

National Mental Health Commission

Members welcomed David Butt, CEO of the National Mental Health Commission to the NMHCCF meeting on Day 2. The Executive Committee provided a presentation on the importance of the NMHCCF as the national combined voice of consumers and carers. Members emphasised the wealth of knowledge and expertise amongst the NMHCCF and their important link to consumer and carer networks across Australia.

David provided an overview of the process to date in relation to the National Review of Mental Health Programmes and Services. He also agreed to meet with NMHCCF representatives in November 2014, so they can provide a consumer and carer perspective in relation to the draft final report. Further information on the review can be found on the National Mental Health Commission website, <http://www.mentalhealthcommission.gov.au/our-work/review-of-mental-health-services-and-programmes.aspx>.

Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO)

Matthew Wright, CEO of AFDO presented to the NMHCCF meeting on Day 2. Matthew provided an overview of AFDO, in particular their work on the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and employment of people with a disability. Members discussed the possibility of working together with AFDO on areas of common interest and it was agreed that a MOU between AFDO and the NMHCCF would be beneficial. Further information on AFDO can be found on their website, <http://www.afdo.org.au/>.

NMHCCF Business Plan and Communications Strategy

Members discussed the new NMHCCF Business Plan 2014-2017 and endorsed the document in principle, with some additions to be made. The NMHCCF Business Plan has a strong focus on six priority areas and includes a strategy for outlining the core activities and desired outcomes for the three year period. The six priority areas are:

- Person centred approaches to mental health reform
- Increased consumer and carer participation
- Social inclusion and recovery
- Psychosocial Disability and the NDIS
- Peer workforce
- Rights, disability and mental health.

The NMHCCF Communications Strategy for 2014-2017 was endorsed by members. This strategy is a guide for all external and internal NMHCCF communications. It was agreed that the Partnerships and Alliances Working Group will now develop an action plan regarding stakeholder engagement and NMHCCF promotional activities.

Website upgrade

In line with the Communications Strategy, the NMHCCF agreed to update and improve the current website, www.nmhccf.org.au. The aim of this upgrade is to create a new website that has a modern and responsive design and is easy to navigate. A select tender process was followed and at this meeting members were presented with information about the selected company. Members endorsed the selected company and agreed to proceed with this work. It is anticipated that the new website will be launched in November/December 2014.

Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Members discussed the mental health and human rights issues impacting on refugees and asylum seekers in Australia and the wellbeing of those in detention. It was agreed that a working group be formed to develop an advocacy brief and other documents if appropriate from the consumer and carer perspective.

National Mental Health Leaders Project

NMHCCF members received an update on the National Mental Health Leaders Project. The National Mental Health Leaders Project is an initiative of the National Mental Health Commission in collaboration with Mental Health Australia. The project offers an individual mentoring and leadership development program, with participants also having the opportunity to contribute to the work of the National Mental Health Commission. When this project was developed the NMHCCF agreed to support to program and work together where possible. 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>

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) – update from VICSERV

The NDIS and Psychosocial Disability is one of NMHCCF's identified priorities. Members welcomed Kim Koop, CEO of Psychiatric Disability Services of Victoria (VICSERV) who provided an update on issues arising from NDIS implementation at the Barwon launch site.

National Committees/Initiatives

Updates were provided from representatives on the following national committees:

- Community Mental Health Australia (CMHA) Board
- National Mental Health Commission Seclusion and Restraint Lived Experience Group
- Mental Health Professional Online Development (MHPOD) National Expert Group
- Mental Health Professionals Network Project Reference Group
- Independent Hospital Pricing Authority (IHPA) Mental Health Working Group

Guest speakers

- Frank Quinlan, CEO of Mental Health Australia
- Carmel Ackerly, Business Plan Consultant
- Kim Koop, CEO of VICSERV
- David Butt, CEO of the National Mental Health Commission
- Matthew Wright, CEO of the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations.

Key Actions and Decisions Made:

- NMHCCF representatives to meet with the National Mental Health Commission In November 2014 to provide a consumer and carer perspective in relation to the final report from the review
- NMHCCF members agreed to progress drafting a MOU with AFDO
- NMHCCF members endorsed the Business Plan in principle and the Communications Strategy for 2014-2017
- NMHCCF members endorsed the selected company to design a new NMHCCF website and agreed to proceed with the website upgrade
- NMHCCF agreed to form a working group to develop an advocacy brief in relation to refugees and asylum seekers in Australia.
- Next NMHCCF teleconference will be held on Thursday 13 November 2014.