



National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Forum (NMHCCF) Report

Name of Delegate:
State / Territory / Organisation:
Date of meeting: 10-11 September 2015
Consumer / Carer Representative (please circle)
<p>Issues and outcomes from the September 2015 meeting:</p> <p>National Mental Health Commission Members welcomed David Butt, CEO of the National Mental Health Commission (NMHC) to the meeting. The NMHCCF were interested to hear an update on the work of the NMHC and in particular the key areas in their new 2015-16 work plan. Further information can be found on the NMHC website, http://www.mentalhealthcommission.gov.au/.</p> <p>The NMHCCF Co-Chairs and David Butt also took the opportunity to sign a new MOU between the NMHCCF and the NMHC, renewing a commitment to work together to promote and improve mental health outcomes for all Australians.</p> <p>Australian Human Rights Commission – Willing to Work Inquiry Marlene Krasovitsky and Donna Purcell from the Australian Human Rights Commission attended the meeting to facilitate a consultation on the current Willing to Work Inquiry. This is a national inquiry into employment discrimination against older Australians and Australians with disability. The NMHCCF were able to provide insights from the mental health consumer and care sector, particularly in relation to issues and barriers to employment such as the criminal justice system, episodes of illness, disclosure and stigma. Members were also able to provide examples of good practice and staff training, which the Human Rights Commission will follow up.</p> <p>The NMHCCF also made a commitment to provide the Inquiry with a formal submission as part of the consultation process. More information about the Willing to Work National Inquiry can be found on the Australian Human Rights Commission website, https://www.humanrights.gov.au/our-work/disability-rights/projects/willing-work-national-inquiry-employment-discrimination-against.</p> <p>Mental Health in Multicultural Australia Members welcomed Hamza Vayani, Mental Health in Multicultural Australia (MHiMA) Project Manager. Hamza provided an update on the work of MHiMA, with a particular focus on the implementation of the Framework for Mental Health in Multicultural Australia: Towards culturally inclusive service delivery. For more information visit the MHiMA website at http://www.mhima.org.au/.</p> <p>Mental Health and Psychotropic medication Members discussed issues related to the increasing use of psychotropic medications and the side effects to both physical and psychological health. A working group will be established to focus on the issue of psychotropic medication and mental health, with a view to drafting an advocacy brief or position statement on the impact to mental health consumers and carers.</p> <p>Peer Work in Mental Health Members discussed issues related to the peer workforce in Australia and in particular the Mental Health Peer Work Qualification Development Project which has been funded by the NMHC and</p>

coordinated by the Mental Health Coordinating Council on behalf of Community Mental Health Australia. This project developed and supported a nationally recognised qualification for peer workers (Certificate IV in Mental Health Peer Work) to help facilitate recognition and broader engagement of peer workers throughout the mental health sector. NMHCCF members were shown training materials and were encouraged to access the materials online and promote the information through their networks. The training materials can be found on the NMHC's website, <http://www.mentalhealthcommission.gov.au/peerwork>.

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and Mental Health

Janet Meagher, NMHCCF member and member of the NDIS Independent Advisory Council, provided an update on some of the issues relating to the NDIS and the mental health sector, and in particular the support needs for people with a psychosocial disability and the roll out and transition to the NDIS. Janet Meagher also provided an update about the work of the NDIA Mental Health Sector Reference Group (NMHSRG) and progress to date. Members were encouraged to visit the NDIS website and read the Communiqués which provide the key outcomes from NMHSRG meetings. The Communiqué from the last meeting, held in August 2015, can be found at, <http://www.ndis.gov.au/document/august-mental-health-sector-communiqué>.

National Committees/Initiatives

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

- Safety and Quality Partnerships Standing Committee (SQPSC)
- Independent Hospital Pricing Authority (IHPA) Mental Health Working Group
- 5th Annual National Borderline Personality Disorder Conference
- Mental Health Australia Extraordinary Policy Forum
- Department of Health Stakeholder Workshop to help inform the Government's response to the NMHC's National Review of Mental Health Programmes and Services
- Department of Health Consumer and Carer Consultation to help inform the Government's response to the NMHC's National Review of Mental Health Programmes and Services
- TheMHS Conference 2015

Guest speakers

- David Butt, CEO of the National Mental Health Commission
- Frank Quinlan, CEO of Mental Health Australia
- Marlene Krasovitsky and Donna Purcell, Director and Manager of the Australian Human Rights Commission Willing to Work Inquiry
- Hamza Vayani, Mental Health in Multicultural Australia Project Manager

Key Actions and Decisions Made:

- NMHCCF to continue to work in collaboration with the National Mental Health Commission, following the signing of a new MOU until 30 June 2017.
- NMHCCF members to provide a written submission to the Australian Human Rights Commission Willing to Work Inquiry.
- NMHCCF to trial a new meeting schedule for 2016 to include an extra one day face to face meeting in lieu of two full membership teleconferences.
- NMHCCF to establish a working group to focus on the use of psychotropic medication and mental health.
- Next NMHCCF meeting will be held on 7 and 8 March 2016, with working group meetings and teleconferences to progress activities out of session.