



National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Forum (NMHCCF) Report

Name of Delegate:
State / Territory / Organisation:
Date of meeting: 13-14 September 2012
Consumer / Carer Representative (please circle)
Key issues discussed: National Mental Health Commission Janet Meagher, Mental Health Commissioner provided an update on the National Mental Health Commission. The Commission's first National Report Card is due at the end of 2012. It will report on the performance of services that provide support to people with mental illness, including non-clinical and social services. The Report Card will also include narratives from consumers and carers to highlight the stories behind the statistics. The Commission have finalised their 'Paid Participation Policy', available on their website (www.mentalhealthcommission.gov.au). This policy has been adapted from a number of existing policies, including those of the NMHCCF, Mental Health Council of Australia (MHCA) and several government agencies. In particular the Commission acknowledge the NMHCCF Consumer and Carer Participation Policy: a framework for the mental health sector as a document they used to inform their policy and related Commission documents. National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) NMHCCF members discussed current issues for mental health consumers and carers relating to the NDIS, specifically relating to the client pathway and eligibility and access criteria for people with a psychosocial disability. The following concerns were raised: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proposed assessment mechanisms and tools may not be appropriate for mental health• Access limitations for people in rural and remote settings• The concept of individuals documenting that they have a 'permanent disability' which is in contrast to the recovery model• The use of physical impairment language and the limits this places on individuals with a psychosocial disability. The NMHCCF feel strongly that psychosocial disability must be considered in all stages of NDIS development and implementation. The NMHCCF position statement, Unravelling Psychosocial Disability is an important document to refer to and promote in relation to the NDIS. NMHCCF Forward Plan The following six priority areas were identified and agreed for NMHCCF business over the

next three years:

- National mental health reforms
- Psychosocial disability issues and disability sector linkages
- Workforce development and education
- Forum partnerships and alliances
- Accountability and promotion
- Consumer and carer research

Members agreed on a number of actions and tasks that can be progressed immediately, including the establishment of working groups to progress priority actions. Members will also consider opportunities for promoting and raising awareness of the Forum in conjunction with the proposed workplan.

The NMHCCF Forward Plan document and workplan will be finalised as a priority out of session.

National Committees

Updates were provided from representatives on the following national committees:

- Mental Health Standing Committee
- Mental Health Workforce Advisory Committee
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social and Emotional Wellbeing Framework Working Group
- Partners in Recovery
- Forensic Mental Health Information Development Expert Advisory Panel
- Health Workforce Australia Standing Advisory Committee for NGO and Private Sector
- Mental Health Professionals Network Project Reference Group

Guest speakers

- Barry Taylor (National LGBTI Health Alliance) provided an overview of the MindOUT! Project and discussed possible opportunities for the NMHCCF to engage with lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans/transgender, intersex and other sexuality, sex and gender diverse (LGBTI) people and communities.
- Sharon Orapeleng (Mental Health in Multicultural Australia [MHiMA]) provided an update on the MHiMA project and their Strategic Plan. Of particular relevance is the Consumer and Carer Participation Domain (Domain 2) of the Strategic Plan, which focuses on meaningfully involving CALD consumers and carers.
- Sarah Childs (Queensland Health) provided an overview of the Disability Employment Network, in particular the results from the research study 'The Queensland Employment Specialist Initiative: a multi-sited randomised controlled trial'. One of the ongoing challenges identified from the study is the level of engagement of consumers and carers in program promotion.

Key Actions and Decisions Made:

- NMHCCF to progress the development of MOUs with the National Mental Health Commission and MHiMA.
- NMHCCF to finalise Forward Plan and establish new working groups to progress specific projects/actions.
- NMHCCF Psychosocial Disability Working Group to be reconvened to consider issues that arise in relation to NDIS and National Disability Services (NDS). This will include advocating for better recognition and support for people with psychosocial disability and their carers.
- Members to consider opportunities to promote the NMHCCF.

- Secretariat to facilitate state and territory catch-up meetings for NMHCCF and National Register members.
- Next NMHCCF teleconference will be held on Wednesday 21 November 2012