



## National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Forum (NMHCCF) Report

<b>Name of Delegate:</b>
<b>State / Territory:</b>
<b>Date of meeting: 13-14 March 2008</b>
<b>Venue: Stamford Plaza Sydney Airport</b>
<b>Consumer / Carer Representative (please circle)</b>
<p><b>Key Issues Discussed:</b></p> <p><b>Strategic Plan</b>  <b>Working groups met during the most recent face to face meeting to progress activities under the strategic plan:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Privacy and confidentiality: A survey seeking consumer and carer views on privacy and confidentiality was distributed widely over Dec 07-Feb 08 with responses received from 40 consumers and 50 carers. A summary of results is being developed for distribution and comment and a consumer and carer position statement is being drafted.</li> <li>• Seclusion and restraint: The draft position paper has progressed considerably. The NMHCCF work is also now being informed by the National Seclusion and Restraint Project being run through the Mental Health Standing Committee and NMHCCF members will obtain contacts for the project's pilot sites.</li> <li>• Welfare to Work: In view of recent Australian Government policy announcements, the aim of this group is now to keep consumer and carer perspectives on the national agenda; lobbying MPs' advisers on these issues; participating in current Australian Government consultations on the development of a Disability Employment Strategy; and improving the fairness of the implementation of current Welfare to Work policy and Job Capacity Assessments.</li> <li>• Enhanced NMHCCF profile: A short print run of an NMHCCF brochure (attached) is in use pending a professionally designed version being produced. The NMHCCF is still considering options for website development which has been held up pending the development of the MHCA website. Website content is being considered, including a members only area.</li> <li>• Enhanced NMHCCF relationships: The working relationship between the NMHCCF membership and Executive is being streamlined with the provision of opportunities for members to input into Executive Meetings with the MHCA. Members are also being requested to prepare specific strategic planning questions in advance of face to face meetings.</li> <li>• Raise the political awareness of the priorities and concerns of mental health</li> </ul>

consumers and carers prior to the 2007 federal election: This strategy has now changed. Members agreed to undertake a process of obtaining state and territory statistical information under FOI in each state and territory with the aim of the development of impact statements for use in lobbying.

**Draft Nationally Consistent process for the selection of consumer and carer reps in each state/territory.**

Members considered this draft and provided comments. The draft will be available to state and territory Liaison Contact Officers soon.

**IIMHL Exchange and Conference**

Members are keen to be involved in the program planning for International Initiative for Mental Health Leadership (IIMHL) Exchange and Conference taking place in Australia in March 2009 and are seeking opportunities for this with Dept Health and Ageing and the IIMHL.

**Ongoing funding for NMHCCF**

NMHCCF will be seeking funding beyond June 2008 at the next MHSC meeting in May.

**Advance Communication skills and media training.**

Members undertook the above training at this meeting.

**Key Decisions Made:**

- Ongoing progress on strategic plan initiatives as outlined above.
- NMHCCF involvement in IIMHL Exchange and Conference in 2009.
- Advanced communication skills training to be continued.
- Next NMHCCF teleconference will be on 12 May 2008.

**Actions Required:**

- Assistance is sought from State and territory Liaison Contact Officers on the identification of privacy and confidentiality information produced for consumers and carers.
- Advice, if available, is sought from State and Territory Liaison Contact Officers on obtaining mental health statistics under FOI.