



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

<b>Name of Delegate:</b>
<b>State / Territory / Organisation:</b>
<b>Date of meeting: 1-2 September 2011</b>
<b>Consumer / Carer Representative (please circle)</b>
<b>Key issues discussed:</b>
<b>Position statement on privacy and confidentiality</b> The NMHCCF has identified privacy and confidentiality as a matter of great concern for mental health consumers and carers.  In 2008 the NMHCCF conducted a survey entitled “Confidentially and Information Sharing with Families and Carer in Mental Health”. Following from this, the NMHCCF commissioned an Issues Paper to further examine this topic and identify examples of best practice and potential solutions and ways forward.  The NMHCCF has since developed a Position Statement, <i>Privacy, Confidentiality &amp; Information Sharing – Consumers, Carers &amp; Clinicians</i> , to highlight the issues surrounding privacy and confidentiality in the Australian mental health system for consumers, carers and clinicians.  <i>Post meeting note:</i> Senator Claire Moore (QLD) launched the Position Statement and Issues Paper at the TheMHS conference in Adelaide on Thursday 8 September 2011.  The Position Statement and Issues Paper are available on the NMHCCF website - <a href="http://www.nmhccf.org.au">www.nmhccf.org.au</a> .
<b>Position statement on psychosocial disability</b> As part of its submission to the Productivity Commission’s inquiry into Disability Care and Support, the NMHCCF has developed a Position Statement, <i>Unravelling Psychosocial Disability Associated with Mental Health Conditions</i> , currently in press. The Position Statement will be an important reference for mental health consumers and carers, policy makers and service providers in the mental health and disability sectors and in the broader community.  It is anticipated that the Position Statement will be launched by Senator Jan McLucas at Parliament House on 22 November 2011
<b>Mental health reform</b> The Minister for Mental Health, Mark Butler, attended the meeting on Day 2 and highlighted that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The MHCA is managing the Budget Implementation Workshops.</li></ul>

- Robyn Kruk has been appointed as CEO of the Mental Health Commission. The Mental Health Commission will commence operation on 1 January 2012.
- COAG has agreed to develop a National Partnership Agreement (NPA) on Mental Health that will focus on:
  - emergency department presentations
  - accommodation support
  - community based crisis support
- There are two key issues for e-mental health:
  - Making it easier to find services
  - Level of support available

NMHCCF members identified alignment of 4th National Mental Health Plan and the 10 Year Roadmap, increasing the priority of Action 26 (consumer & carer workforce) of the 4th National Mental Health Plan, consumer peak body, carer peak body, ATAP's and a national anti stigma campaign as key issues for mental health consumers and carers.

Members are pleased that the NMHCCF has an ongoing relationship with the Minister and will invite him to speak with them at each face to face meeting.

#### **Guest speakers**

- Dr Darryl Watson (RANZCP) discussed the issue of accountability of psychiatrists.
- Alan Singh (DoHA) spoke to members about mental health reform in Australia and the 2011-2012 Stronger Mental Health Consumer and Carer Representation (SMHCCR) Project.
- Tim Coombs (AMHOCN) talked about the activities of AMHOCN and key activities taking place within the area of mental health information development.

#### **Key Decisions Made:**

- A working group will be established to develop the NMHCCF Forward Plan for 2012 and beyond, discuss working collaboratively with the National Register and funding diversification.
- Next NMHCCF teleconference will be on 23 November 2011.

#### **Actions Required:**

- NMHCCF members to speak to their jurisdictional liaison officers about NMHCCF funding issues.
- Privacy and Confidentiality position statement to be launched at TheMHS 2011 by Senator Claire Moore.
- Psychosocial disability position statement will be launched on 22 November 2011
- NMHCCF to invite the Minister for Mental Health to each face to face meeting.