



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 2013
Consumer / Carer Representative (please circle)
Key issues discussed: National Mental Health Commission Georgie Harman, Acting CEO of the Commission, attended the meeting on day one and spoke to members about the following Commission projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Contributing Life project• Mentally Healthy Workplace Alliance initiative• Peer workforce projects• 2013 Report Card In line with the NMHCCF's MOU with the Commission, members discussed issues and opportunities for working with the National Mental Health Commission. Georgie also launched the Commission's Participation and Engagement Framework at the meeting, which was developed in collaboration with the NMHCCF and National Register (and others). Business Plan NMHCCF members acknowledged that the current Business Plan was developed in 2009 and will be updated so that it is in line with the new Strategic Directions (Forward Plan) document and revised NMHCCF priorities. The Business Plan needs to consider current resources and capacity, future funding options and potential ways forward, so that the NMHCCF can meet its aspirational activities. In addition to this, and in support of promoting the work of the NMHCCF, members also agreed to develop a communications strategy. Partnerships and Alliances To progress this Forward Plan priority and raise the profile of the NMHCCF, working group members used a stakeholder analysis tool to identify current relationships and potential new relationships. This exercise was helpful in identifying possible future partnerships and promoting the value of the NMHCCF as a united, independent voice of consumers and carers committed to reforming mental health in Australia. Rights, Disability and Mental Health One of the Forward Plan priorities relates to formalising and strengthening links with the disability sector and maintaining a focus on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). Working group members agreed to produce information and an educational tool on the UNCRPD and look at how this is being upheld and monitored across Australia in relation to mental health. The working group also discussed the scope of the Australian Law Reform Commissions' <i>Review of Equal Recognition Before the Law and Legal Capacity for People with Disability</i> and the areas that directly impact on people with a mental illness and their carers.

Consumer and Carer Research

The NMHCCF Forward Plan includes a priority area of progressing consumer and carer led research. Interested members discussed the need to develop a workplan for two initial projects including a national consumer and carer led research network and a national consumer and carer led research forum. Website possibilities and funding options are still to be considered in relation to sustainability, management, accountability and promotion.

Collaborative opportunities with the National Register

NMHCCF members discussed options for ongoing collaboration with the National Register of Mental Health Consumers and Carers, in line with the current mental health reform agenda and priorities for consumers and carers. Activities include issues based discussions between NMHCCF and National Register members and potential mentoring from more experienced members.

National Committees/Initiatives

Updates were provided from representatives on the following national committees:

- Mental Health Drug & Alcohol Principal Committee (MHDAPC) stakeholder session
- Safety and Quality Partnerships Standing Committee (SQPSC)
- MHCA DisabilityCare Stakeholder Workshop
- Health Workforce Australia Standing Advisory Committee for NGO and Private Sector
- MHPOD National Expert Group for web-based professional development project for the Australian mental health workforce
- Mental Health Workforce Reform Program Project Advisory Group
- Health Workforce Australia Technical Working Group
- National Mental Health Services Planning Framework Project
- Psychotherapy and Counselling Federation of Australia (PACFA) Research Consultation group

Guest speakers

- Frank Quinlan, CEO of MHCA provided an update on MHCA priorities and projects
- Josh Fear, MHCA Director Policy and Projects provided an overview of the NDIS capacity building project and an update on the proposed targets and indicators to drive mental health reform
- Jo Riley and Jen Coulls from the Suicide Prevention Australia (SPA) Lived Experience Committee, spoke to members about the SPA Lived Experience Network and the Lived Experience Network Strategy
- Dr Tony Sherbon, CEO Independent Hospital Pricing Authority, presented on activity based funding

Key Actions and Decisions Made:

- NMHCCF Risk Management Plan to be cross referenced to the NMHCCF workplan
- NMHCCF to write to the new federal Minister responsible for mental health introducing the NMHCCF and outlining key priorities
- NMHCCF to strengthen and formalise relationships with jurisdictions as well as organisations and individuals directly linked to NMHCCF priorities.
- NMHCCF to develop a new Business Plan and communications strategy
- NMHCCF to draft an advocacy brief on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)
- Members endorsed the new NMHCCF Style Guide
- Members to provide additional feedback on the final draft of the National Targets and Indicators for Mental Health Reform to the Co-Chairs of the COAG Mental Health Reform Working Group.
- Next NMHCCF teleconference will be held on Tuesday 26 November 2013.