



National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Forum (NMHCCF) Report

Name of Delegate:
State / Territory / Organisation:
Date of meeting: 6-7 September 2010
Consumer / Carer Representative (please circle)
Key Issues Discussed: Consumer and carer workforce position statement The NMHCCF position statement, <i>Supporting and developing the mental health consumer and carer identified workforce – a strategic approach to recovery</i> , has been finalised. <i>Please note:</i> the position statement has been since been published and was launched at the TheMHS Conference in Sydney on 16 September 2009 by Senator Claire Moore. The launch was very successful, attracting a large, interested and enthusiastic audience. The position statement and summary version are available at www.nmhccf.org.au/workforce . Advocacy Briefs NMHCCF members have completed ten advocacy briefs (at 7 September 2010). All advocacy briefs are available at: http://www.nmhccf.org.au/advocacy-briefs . Position statement on privacy, confidentiality and information sharing The NMHCCF position on privacy, confidentiality and information sharing is close to being finalised by the Privacy and Confidentiality Working Group. It will be published and released in early 2011. Disability care and support Lesley Hall, CEO of the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO), attended the meeting and gave a presentation about AFDO's work and areas of interest. Lesley spoke about the Productivity Commissions' <i>Inquiry into long term disability care and support</i> and advised that AFDO has received funding from FAHCSIA to engage with the inquiry. Lesley suggested that members visit www.ndis.org.au to be informed and get involved. The NMHCCF has also received funding from FaHCSIA to engage members and provide input. NMHCCF members are excited about this opportunity and look forward to developing a position paper on long term disability care and support. NMHCCF members agreed to form a psychosocial disability working group to provide input to the NMHCCF <i>Inquiry</i> submission and position statement. Mental Health Standing Committee (MHSC) decision on NMHCCF funding NMHCCF members welcomed the news that the MHSC had agreed NMHCCF 2010-11 funding, but were disappointed that additional funding was not agreed for an expanded membership and project work.

The MHSC Chair, Aaron Groves, attended the meeting to discuss members' concerns and encouraged NMHCCF members to talk to their jurisdictional liaisons / MHSC representatives about NMHCCF funding.

Identifying key issues within the mental health sector

The Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council is investigating how to best address the ongoing concerns in the Australian mental health sector. Peggy Brown, Chief Executive of ACT Health, attended the meeting to seek members' feedback on key areas for mental health reform. Members provided a broad range of comments on positive changes that have occurred during the past two decades of reform, the gaps that remain and suggestions on what else is needed.

Community Services and Health Industry Skills Council (CSHISC) mental health peer workforce (consumers and carers) competency development project

Rebecca Tidey from CSHISC provided information about the peer workforce competency development project and received feedback from members on what should be included in the qualifications. Members were encouraged to invite Rebecca to other consumer and carer meetings, and it was agreed that NMHCCF consumer and carer representatives would join the project's Industry Reference Group.

Accountability of psychiatrists

Members discussed the lack of accountability measures for psychiatrists in private practice who receive Medicare payments. An advocacy brief will be developed on this issue and a RANZCP representative will be invited to attend the next NMHCCF face to face meeting.

Report Back from International Initiative for Mental Health Leadership (IIMHL)

NMHCCF members David Lovegrove and Michael Burge discussed their experiences at the IIMHL conference in Ireland and outlined what they had learnt from their exchange placements. David talked about the consumer led program at Dublin University and the 'trialog' (consumers, carers and service providers) mechanism being developed there. Michael discussed the value of the Recovery Star and the work being undertaken by the Scottish Recovery Network. He also talked about the Mental Health Commission in Dublin and the benefits of having a Mental Health Commission.

Key Decisions Made:

- Members agreed to develop a position statement on long term disability care and support.
- Members agreed that the position statement on privacy, confidentiality and information sharing would be signed off to the point of publication by the Privacy and Confidentiality Working Group and Executive Committee.
- Next NMHCCF teleconference will be on 17 November 2010.

Actions Required:

- Privacy, confidentiality and information sharing position statement to be finalised.
- Psychosocial Disability Working Group to be established.
- NMHCCF MHSC representatives to raise NMHCCF funding issues at October 2010 MHSC meeting.
- Advocacy brief on accountability of psychiatrists to be developed.