

Achievements under the NMHCCF Strategic Plan April 2007- April 2008

Privacy and Confidentiality

- Definitions of privacy and confidentiality explored and advice of Australian Law Reform Commission sought.
- Survey on privacy and confidentiality developed and publicised through MHCA website and NMHCCF member networks.
- 90 responses received from consumers and carers.
- Preliminary data analysis undertaken.
- List of current initiatives in this area drafted.

Next steps will be: development of issues paper, extensive consultation, development of Position Paper.

Seclusion and Restraint

- Development of a draft position paper – soon to be publicly available – based on the Victorian Mental Illness Awareness Council position paper.
- Interviews conducted with consumers and carers for inclusion in the Position Paper.
- Consultation on draft position paper with the MHSC Safety and Quality Partnership Group (running the National Seclusion and Restraint Project).

Next steps will be: release of and consultation on draft Position Paper.

Welfare to work

- Promotion of this issue in the lead up to the 2007 Federal Election (see below)
- Participation in the VicServ postcard campaign on Welfare to Work in the lead up to the 2007 Federal Election
- Participation in the development of the MHCA Lets get to work a National Mental Health Employment Strategy.

Next steps: Work under this priority is now winding down. Next steps will be: maintenance of a watching brief and participation in the development and implementation of the National Disability Employment Strategy.

Raising political awareness of the priorities and concerns of mental health consumers and carers prior to the 2007 Federal Election.

- Training on working with the media provided to NMHCCF members;
- A briefing paper outlining issues of concern to consumers and carers developed and sent to all sitting MPs. These issues were
 - Appropriate employment services
 - Appropriate housing
 - Affordable and continued access to health services
- Individual NMHCCF members met with Federal candidates in their area to promote the issues.
- Sitting MPs and parties invited to comment on these concerns with replies received from the Liberals, Labor, Democrats and Greens.
- These replies were compiled and publicised using the MHCA website and NMHCCF member's networks.

Next steps: work under this priority is now complete.

Progressing working relationships of the National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Forum

Strategy: Development of an MOU between the NMHCCF and the MHCA

The MOU sets out the basis for the relationship between the NMHCCF and the MHCA. It details twice yearly meetings between the Executive of the NMHCCF and the MHCA Chair, Deputy Chair and CEO.

The MOU is the framework for interaction between the NMJHCCF and the MHCA and has resulted in the next achievement:

Strategy: More interaction with the MHCA

- This is being achieved through the above meetings, the circulation of all MHCA information for members to the NMHCCF, as well as the opportunity for NMHCCF members to contribute to MHCA projects and Working Parties.
- NMHCCF is now also a standing item at MHCA board Meetings.
- Executive of the NMHCCF now also attend MHCA Members Policy Forum meetings.
- NMHCCF continues to explore the option of membership of the MHCA. This item was the subject of much debate and is still of interest to NMHCCF members although as an unincorporated body the NMHCCF is not entitled to join.

Strategy: Implementation of a reporting strategy

Under this action NMHCCF explored its ability to provide better reporting to its stakeholders and consumer and carer constituents. Achievements include

- Regular production of pro-forma reports on meetings for members to circulate and the establishment of a six monthly reporting system (members report back after each face to face meeting.)
- Ensuring that members are in touch with their respective state/territory Liaison Contact Officer

Raising the profile of the National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Forum

- The development of a revised and updated brochure for the NMHCCF.
- The identification of requirements for an updated website.
- Registration of the website domain name www.NMHCCF.org.au.
- Development of text and design for new website.
- The promotion of the NMHCCF by NMHCCF members.
- NMHCCF members met with their nominating organisations to discuss organisational reporting and other requirements.

Next steps: work under this strategy will now focus on the development of a distribution strategy for the NMHCCF brochure and building the new NMHCCF website.