



NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH CONSUMER & CARER FORUM

National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Forum (NMHCCF) Report

Name of Delegate:
State / Territory / Organisation:
Date of meeting: 21-22 March 2011
Consumer / Carer Representative (please circle)
Key issues discussed: Position statement on psychosocial disability The NMHCCF has received funding from FaHCSIA to engage members and provide input into the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Disability Care and Support. A NMHCCF working group has been developing a psychosocial disability position statement for submission. The position statement defines psychosocial disability and describes the disability supports required for people with a psychosocial disability to function effectively in the community. <i>Please note:</i> the position statement was submitted to the Productivity Commission on 13 May 2011 (extension granted). The submission is available at http://www.nmhccf.org.au/submissions . The statement will also be published and launched mid 2011. National Mental Health Peer Workforce Forum The NMHCCF recently partnered with the NSW Mental Health Coordinating Council and the Community Services and Health Industry Skills Council (CSHISC) to host the very successful National Mental Health Peer Workforce Forum in Sydney (22 February 2011). Over 180 people from across Australia attended the Forum, the majority being consumer and carer peer workers. NMHCCF members Janet Meagher, Michael Burge, Isabell Collins, Judy Bentley (standing in for Eileen McDonald) and Jenny Burger gave presentations or moderated sessions. Information about the Forum is available here: http://www.mhcc.org.au/sector-development/peer-workforce.aspx . Review of the Mental Health Statement of Rights and Responsibilities Robyn Milthorpe attended the meeting, on behalf of the Safety and Quality Partnerships Subcommittee (SQPS), to discuss the review of the <i>Mental Health Statement of Rights and Responsibilities</i> . Members supported the review and provided broad feedback on the document. <i>Please note:</i> A consumer and a carer representative from the NMHCCF have since been selected to join the SQPS Review Reference Group.

Mental health reform

The Minister for Mental Health, Mark Butler, attended a breakfast meeting with members on Day 2 of the meeting. The Minister highlighted:

- His engagement with consumers and carers through the nationwide Forums.
- The activities of the mental health expert working group.
- That reform needs to focus on:
 - intervening early (children and families)
 - youth
 - adults with severe and persistent mental illness
 - lifting services where there are gaps
 - accountability and transparency within the system
 - research.

NMHCCF members identified psychosocial disability, physical health and funding across the age spectrum as key issues for mental health consumers and carers. The development of a national mental health commission and improved access for disadvantaged minority groups, such as CALD and ATSI, were also raised.

Members would like the NMHCCF to have an ongoing relationship with the Minister and will invite him to speak with them at each face to face meeting.

Guest speakers

- Vanessa Dayeh (CSHISC) provided an update on the Mental Health Peer Workforce Competency Development Project and sought feedback from members on the draft framework.
- Beverley Raphael (ANU & UWS) spoke to members about disaster management and mental health.
- Morris Wilson (Centrelink) talked about the activities of Centrelink's Service Delivery Advisory Group.

Key Decisions Made:

- The NMHCCF will seek CALD and ATSI consumer and carer representatives to join the NMHCCF membership (*action on this decision is dependent on funding*).
- Members will discuss the NMHCCF Forward Plan for 2011 and beyond at the September 2011 face to face meeting.
- The NMHCCF will develop an Advocacy Brief on the use of terminology and a "What consumers and carers want" brochure for national distribution.
- Next NMHCCF teleconference will be on 22 June 2011.

Actions Required:

- NMHCCF members to speak to their jurisdictional liaison officers about NMHCCF funding issues.
- Psychosocial disability position statement to be finalised and submitted to the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Disability Care and Support.
- NMHCCF to invite the Minister for Mental Health to each face to face meeting.
- NMHCCF consumer and carer representatives to be selected for the *Mental Health Statement of Rights and Responsibilities* Review Reference Group.