



Communiqué No 3: August, 2013

The purpose of this brief Communiqué is to keep our members informed about the main discussions, deliberations and activities after each of our two face to face meeting of the National Committee. We hope that it give you some indication of our meeting discussions. We would be pleased to receive any comments you may wish to make about any of these issues

admin@pmhccn.com.au

The Network held its **twenty eighth meeting** on the **26 and 27th August, 2013** in Melbourne. Major items of discussion were:

Creating the position of Governance and Policy Officer

A sign of the growth of the Network is the need to create this position to oversee our governance and policy areas. We are pleased to advise that Ms Kim Werner, former ACT State Coordinator has been appointed to this position.

Kim brings a wealth of knowledge and experience which will strengthen the Network in the ensuing years.

Vacant ACT State Coordinator's position

Following Kim's appointment, the position of ACT State Coordinator has become vacant. A call for nominations has been distributed to the Network members in the ACT.

Discussion Paper 1 - Models for Consumer & Carer Participation within the private sector

Possible Discussion Paper - Peer Workers

Given the activities of Workforce Australia, the Certificate IV in Mental Health Peer Work and the Mental Health Peer Work project for the development of learning and assessment resources, the National Committee decided on the need to write an additional Discussion Paper relevant to Peer Workforce in the private sector. It was considered that both Discussion Papers focussed on different approaches.

Discussion Paper 2 - Innovative Treatment and Care using IT Technologies

The National Committee discussed the current state of telehealth and the benefits to rural and remote consumers. The Discussion Paper developed for the Lifeline Foundation of April 2013 will guide the focus of the review of this Discussion Paper 2.

Anti-psychotic medications

The Network continues to receive feedback from some members regarding the costs of these medications noting that the Pharmaceutical Benefits Schedule (PBS) lists these medications only for Schizophrenia and Bipolar 1. The Network will again follow up with correspondence to the Pharmacy Guild of Australia seeking advice and assistance.

PMHA Collaborative Care Models Working Group

Principles for Collaboration, Communication and Cooperation Between Private Mental Health Service Providers.

The Network has been represented on this Working Group by the Chair Ms Janne McMahon and the Deputy Chair Mr Patrick Hardwick. The National Committee was very pleased to endorse this document and to provide our logo for inclusion together with the following endorsement:

"The Private Mental Health Consumer Carer Network (Australia) believes the implementation of these Principles will lead to better outcomes for consumers and carers. The Network strongly endorses the Principles and encourages their uptake within clinical practice."

Guest: Mr Tim Coombs

Tim is from the Australian Mental Health Outcomes and Classification Network (AMHOCN) and discussed with the National Committee the work being undertaken around the Carer Experiences of Care Project and the Living in the Community Questionnaire.

The National Committee is well informed about outcome measures having been involved in the private sector's Patient Experiences of Care Survey (PEX Survey) through direct input throughout the process of survey development, review and piloting.

Standing Items

A number of standing items featured throughout the two days were around Risk Management, Budgets, State Advisory Forum reports, National Mental Health Consumer Carer Forum, National Consumer Carer Register, the Network Executives' Reports and the Network Work Plan 2013-2015.

Just remember: After the National Committee has endorsed the Minutes of this meeting in a month or so, they will be posted onto our website of www.pmhccn.com.au where you can read the full content of the two days.