



## Communiqué No 4: May, 2014

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 each year. 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 at [admin@pmhccn.com.au](mailto:admin@pmhccn.com.au)

The Network held its **twenty ninth meeting** on the **14 and 15 April, 2014** in Melbourne. Major items of discussion were:

### **The Getting Started Kit and Template for the National Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care Standard 2 – Partnering with Consumers**

The Kit was developed in 2000 to guide private facilities with mental health beds in the establishment of consumer and carer advisory committees. The National Committee determined that a full update of The Kit is required and as an addition, a template is to be developed to guide the activities of private hospitals consumer and carer advisory committees in meeting the requirements of Standard 2 – Partnering with Consumer.

**Borderline Personality Disorder Research Paper.** It has been determined that Associate Professor Sharon Lawn (SA State Coordinator) may present her Research Paper on the findings of the Network's two surveys in June 2011 to receptive publishers. Watch out for this publication!

**Survey of Members.** Some reports have arisen where privately insured consumers are pressured into being admitted to public hospitals under their private health insurance status. The National Committee has agreed to distribute a survey to members seeking their advices/experiences in this regard.

### **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. The National Committee reviewed a draft of a *Discussion Paper 4 – Peer Support Workers and the Private Sector*. Some further work is required before endorsement of this Discussion Paper and the posting on our website.

### **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 has guided the focus of the review of this Discussion Paper 2. A re-draft has been presented and requires further amendment prior to endorsement.

### **Childhood trauma and Parents as Carers**

Further discussion took place in regard to this issue. The National Committee will explore the issue further in association with the AMA psychiatrists to the PMHA and other psychiatrist experts in this field.

Defining of this issue is required prior to taking it further, however the National Committee determined that this is an issue which needs a national focus and the Network would be keen to do something in this space.

### **Information Sheet on the Private Health Insurance Ombudsman (PHIO)**

The PHIO is an important entity for the people that the Network represents. It is the view of the National Committee that the Network invite the PHIO to the next face to face meeting of the Network later this year and to develop an *Information Sheet* of the activities, contacts, and publications of the PHIO.

### **External Policy Statement 11: Payment for Consumer and Carer Participation**

This is an issue of importance to people operating in the private sector as many of the positions do not attract employment status or payment for contributions made as members of Consumer and Carer Advisory Committees. The National Committee endorsed this External Policy which will be uploaded onto our website of [www.pmhccn.com.au](http://www.pmhccn.com.au) in due course.

### **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 few weeks, they will be posted onto our website of [www.pmhccn.com.au](http://www.pmhccn.com.au) where you can read the full content of the two days.**