



## Communiqué

### No 6: 12/13 March, 2015

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

The Network held its **thirty first meeting** on the **12/13 March, 2015** in Canberra. Major items of discussion were:

#### **Work Plan**

The focus of most of day one was on the direction and content of our Work Plan going forward for the next three years to 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. Following on from our successful Work Plan of 2013-2015 titled: 'Strengthening Relationships' we have decided that our focus for the ensuing three years will be: '**Innovation through Partnerships**'.

#### **Survey of Members.**

We wish to thank all our members for completing the survey in which we sought information about privately insured consumers admitted to public hospitals under their private health insurance status. A brief report will be provided by Assoc. Professor Sharon Lawn (our SA Coordinator) and made available to the Mental Health Committee of the Private Healthcare Australia (health funds), the Australian Private Hospitals Association, Psychiatry Committee (private hospitals) and to the Australian Medical Association's Private Psychiatrist Committee (private psychiatrists).

#### **Patient/Consumer Centred Care.**

This issue was raised by our NSW State Advisory Forum and we further discussed the content for a policy on this issue. We have strengthened our Advance Directives and have developed an informal advance directive template as an addendum. This will be posted onto our website in the coming months.

#### **Resources for online use.**

This issue was raised by our Victorian State Advisory Forum.

One of the most exciting issues of late is the peer worker Certificate IV. Additionally, the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare's National safety and quality Standards – in particular Standard 2 – Partnering with Consumers requires health care organisation's to provide their consumer/carer representatives with training. The Network has not tried to reinvent the wheel, and has therefore taken the content of the Australian Government's 1998 Project, *The Kit, the advocacy we choose to do*. So we have produced 5 on-line resources to date being:

- **Looking after yourself**
- **Briefing and debriefing**
- **Self-evaluation and self-reflection**
- **Staying motivated**
- **Advocacy and the Organisation**

We believe very strongly that these resources will be most useful to ANY consumer and/or carer representative in any organisation, be it public, private or the community managed sector. So if you or your organisation has consumers and carer involved in representational activities, please ensure they are referred to and are provided with these resources.

We have some work to ensure the presentations are professional and we will advise everyone when this has been done. Following this, these resources will be posted onto our website.

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

Following the visit of the PHIO Ms Gavel in September 2014, the Network will develop an *Information Sheet* of the activities, contacts, and publications of the PHIO and post this on our website. We will also provide a special eNews Alert with the content of Ms Gavel's most informing presentation. Look out for this over the next couple of weeks!

#### **A Practical Guide for working with carers of people with a mental illness Project.**

We are delighted to advise that Carer Guide Project officially began on **1<sup>st</sup> march, 2015**. We are very pleased that funding has been received from Mental Health Carers Arafmi WA and MIND Australia to undertake this 12 month national project in conjunction with our Network and Mental Health Australia. As you would now know, our Network formed a Consortium with these three organisations. National consultations will occur across Australia. The Project Officer is Ms Judy Hardy and Mr Patrick Hardwick (WA State Coordinator) will chair both the Project Control Group and the Guidelines Development Committee. Look out for the consultations!

#### **Older persons mental Health**

This issue was raised by our South Australian State Advisory Forum. The RANZCP developed a very good Paper in 2010 titled: *Older Australians Deserve a Better Deal in Mental Health*. The RANZCP has a Faculty of Psychiatry of Old age and is well placed to better focus treatment and care for these people. The National Committee determined that will work with the RANZCP and write to the Federal Minister for Social Services, the Hon. Scott Morrison MP to raise the issue of aged care facilities needing to be tailored to the needs of people with mental illness. The other area is to raise the concerns of the Network in relation to the NDIS. Many of you will know that the age cut off for accessing the **NDIS is 65 years** of age. Mental illness is not bound by age or years and for some, is an enduring condition until the end of life.

#### **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.**