

**NDIS Capacity Building Project 2013/14
Project Advisory Group (PAG)**

**Minutes from Teleconference
7 February 2014**

ATTENDEES

Margaret Springgay	NMHCCF
Lyn English	NMHCCF
Kim Koop	VICSERV
Sue Elderton	Carers Australia
Rod Astbury	WA Association for Mental Health
Richard Nelson	Queensland Alliance for Mental Health
Tina Smith	Mental Health Coordinating Council NSW
John Downie	Nepean & Blue Mountains Partners in Recovery
Daryl Lamb	Anglicare Tasmania
Wendy Kipling	ACT Government NDIS Taskforce
Stephen Brand	Allied Health Professionals Australia
Josh Fear	Mental Health Council of Australia
Liz Ruck	Mental Health Council of Australia
Travis Gilbert	Mental Health Council of Australia

APOLOGIES

Jayne Gallo	Care Connect
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1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

JF welcomed everyone to the 3rd Project Advisory Group meeting.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Members of the PAG accepted the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 10 December 2013, and agreed that they should be uploaded to the MHCA Capacity Building Project website.

3. UPDATE FROM THE MHCA

JF provided an update on the MHCA's Capacity Building Project and recent national developments related to the implementation of the NDIS and the interaction between the NDIS and existing mental health programmes and services.

This included advising that the NDIA has engaged a consultant (Paul O'Halloran) to prepare a paper outlining and addressing the major issues identified by mental health experts to date in relation to where mental health fits in the broader NDIS framework

PAG members agreed that it would be a good idea to send a small delegation of experts to meet with the consultant to assist him in identifying the issues and good models of support. The PAG were happy to support the people nominated by the MHCA to do this. Members also noted that the Community Mental Health Australia *Taking our place* document provided important background for the paper.

There was discussion about the need to ensure that this NDIA Discussion Paper is distributed widely for sector consultation.

JF tabled MHCA Capacity Building Project Communications Plan and the Mid-term Progress Report that were submitted to the NDIA at the end of December 2013.

4. ACTION ITEMS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

JF went through the action items from the previous meeting.

5. AREAS OF FOCUS FOR THE PAG

Members of the PAG:

- Discussed the ongoing issue of how 'permanency of impairment' will be determined and that diagnosis was not necessarily a strong predictor of permanence.
- Affirmed the importance of ensuring that the pricing of supports is adequate to enable providers to meet the true costs of service delivery.
- Noted that variability in the level of experience in mental health assessments was an issue of concern. It will be important to ensure that NDIA assessors who are screening people with psychosocial disability for eligibility for the scheme are trained in mental health assessment.
- Agreed that the MHCA should lobby for peer workers to be employed in NDIA offices to educate assessors responsible for determining whether or not people with psychosocial disability meet access requirements for the scheme.
- Discussed the need to examine what 'good models of integrated care for people with psychosocial disability look like' and provide examples.

- Expressed concerns about a number of examples of inadequate pricing for supports people with psychosocial disability that have been quoted in the launch-sites.
- Agreed that getting the 'average price' for the delivery of a package of mental health support correct could be critical to enabling organisations to determine if it will be viable to deliver individualised supports to NDIS participants.
- Advised that it would be beneficial to examine some of the documents produced to inform the reform of Psychiatric Disability, Rehabilitation and Support (PDRS) services in Victoria.
- Expressed concern about conflicting messages around the 'continuity of support' for people currently accessing mental health programs that will be rolled into the NDIS and agreed that this could lead to a loss of service/system access for people with psychosocial disability.
- Agreed on the need to define clinical versus non-clinical supports more appropriately for the NDIS.
- The PAG agreed to seek further clarification from the NDIA about where supported accommodation fits within the NDIS

6. ACTION ITEMS

- TS to distribute the Community Mental Health Australia publication "Taking Our Place" to the PAG.
- TS to distribute 'one pager' on the Community Mental Health Australia 'benchmarking project' to the PAG.
- MHCA to nominate members from the PAG to form a delegation to meet with NDIA consultant Paul O'Halloran.
- MHCA to provide written material to support the work of the delegation (including the NMHCCF & MHCA publication "Unravelling Psychosocial Disability").
- MHCA to distribute letter to NDIA Board and the response from Board chair Mr Bruce Bonyhady.
- MHCA to contact State/Territory peaks, re: suitable times/dates for MHCA/NDS Organisational Readiness workshops.
- MHCA to invite all PAG members to attend the CONGO meeting on 10 April.
- MHCA to provide PAG members with a list of the key actions emerging from the Working Group meetings.