



Private Mental Health
Consumer Carer Network (Australia)

engage, empower, enable choice in private mental health

**TWENTY SEVENTH MEETING
OF THE
NATIONAL COMMITTEE**

HELD ON

**MONDAY 25 AND TUESDAY 26
FEBRUARY 2013**

**THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND
COLLEGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS
(RANZCP)
309 LA TROBE STREET
MELBOURNE
VICTORIA**

ENDORSED REPORT AND RESOLUTIONS

Glossary of Terms and Acronyms

ACSQHC	Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare
APHA	Australian Private Hospitals Association
APS	Australian Psychological Society
AMA	Australian Medical Association
BPD	Borderline Personality Disorder
DoHA	Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing
Health Insurer(s)	Private Health Insurer(s) that pay benefits for psychiatric care
Hospital(s)	Private Hospital(s) that provide mental health services
MHCA	Mental Health Council of Australia
NC	National Committee of the Private Mental Health Consumer Carer Network (Australia)
Network	Private Mental Health Consumer Carer Network (Australia)
NMHC or Commission	National Mental Health Commission
NMHCCF or Forum	National Mental Health Consumer Carer Forum
PHA	Private Healthcare Australia (formally the Australian Health Insurance Association or AHIA)
PMHA	Private Mental Health Alliance
CDMS	PMHA's Centralised Data Management Service
RANZCP	The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists

1. OPENING AND WELCOME

The Independent Chair of the Private Mental Health Consumer Carer Network (Australia) [Network], Ms Janne McMahon OAM, opened the Twenty Seventh (27th) Meeting of the Network's National Committee (NC) at 9:30 AM on Monday 25 February 2013, (the Meeting). The Meeting was held over two days, 25 and 26 February, at the Headquarters of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP), 309 La Trobe Street, Melbourne.

The Chair explained the focus of this NC Meeting would be the review and endorsement of Network Governance arrangements and related documentation to better support the Network and its Office Bearers. The order of this Report has been structured in accordance with that priority, rather than strictly following the order of discussion.

1.1 Present

The following representatives attended

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1. Ms Janne McMahon | Independent Chair |
| 2. Ms Kim Werner | Deputy Chair
Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Coordinator |
| 3. Mr Patrick Hardwick | Deputy Chair
Western Australia (WA) Coordinator |
| 4. Mr Norm Wotherspoon | Queensland (QLD) Coordinator |
| 1. Mr Evan Bichara | Victorian (VIC) Coordinator |
| 2. Ms Lucy Henry | Tasmanian Coordinator |
| 5. Mr Phillip Taylor | Secretary
Director, Private Mental Health Alliance (PMHA) |

1.2 Apologies

- | | |
|------------------------|------------|
| 1. Mr Michael O'Hanlon | Bluevoices |
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1.3 Changes in Representation

Ms McMahon reported that the Network's New South Wales Coordinator position remains vacant and the South Australia Coordinator, Mr John Kincaid, has resigned since the last meeting of the NC.

2. REPORT OF LAST MEETING

The Meeting noted a copy of the endorsed report of the Twenty Sixth (26th) meeting of the Network's NC, held on 6/7 October 2012 in Adelaide. The Chair reported that a copy of the Report had been posted on the Network's website and electronic copies had been provided to the PMHA and beyondblue. In future copies will also be provided to RANZCP.

3. PROGRESS REPORT

The NC updated the following Table of Progress.

#	TABLE OF PROGRESS	RESPONSIBILITY	STATUS
1	Report of the 26th Network NC Meeting		
	Draft Report of 26th Meeting	Mr Taylor	Done
	Circulate Draft Report to NC for comment/correction	Mr Taylor	Done
	Prepare final for endorsement via email	Mr Taylor	Done
	Circulate endorsed version to beyondblue	Mr Taylor	Done
	Agenda Item 27th NC Meeting	Mr Taylor	Done
3	PROGRESS REPORT		
3.1	Discuss development of Consumer Carer BPD Guide with RANZCP(from 25 th Meeting)	Ms McMahan	Done
3.2	Invite representative of ACSQHC to appropriate meeting (from 25 th Meeting)	Ms McMahan	Pending
3.4	Continue to investigate online registration for Network (from 25 th Meeting)	Ms McMahan/Mr Taylor	Pending
	Agenda Item 27 th NC Meeting	Ms McMahan/Mr Taylor	Done
4	NETWORK BUDGET UPDATE		
	Provide corporate Network materials for Coordinators to use at events	Ms McMahan	Done
	Investigate producing A3 posters for private hospitals and psychiatrists (from 25 th Meeting)	Ms McMahan	Pending
	Agenda Item 27 th NC Meeting	Ms McMahan/Mr Taylor	Done
5	NETWORK WORK PLAN 2010–13		
	Seek PMHA endorsement	Ms McMahan	Pending
	Agenda Item 27 th NC Meeting	Ms McMahan/Mr Taylor	Done
8	NETWORK GOVERNANCE		
8.1	Letters of Appointment	Ms Werner/Mr Taylor/AMA	Pending
8.2	Review and prepare job descriptions for NC and Office Bearers	Ms McMahan/Ms Werner	Done
8.3	Review and amend Nomination Form for State Coordinators	Ms McMahan/Ms Werner	Done
8.3	Review and amend Operating Guidelines for beyond June 2013	Ms Werner	Done
	Agenda Item 27 th NC Meeting	Ms McMahan/Mr Taylor	Done
9.	Policy 8: Carer Support		
	Inclusion on website	Mr Taylor	Done
	Policy 9: Employment, Disability and Mental Illness		
	Inclusion on website	Mr Taylor	Done
	Policy 10: Best Practice Provision of Private Mental Health Services		
	Inclusion on website	Mr Taylor	Done
	Policy 11: Payment for consumer and carer participation		
	Revise to be consistent with NMHC's Paid Participation Policy for people with a lived experience of mental health difficulties, their families and support people.	Ms McMahan/Ms Werner	Pending
	Network Policy 12: Training and skills development for consumer and carer representatives		
	Review Policy to focus on skills development	Ms McMahan/Mr Wotherspoon	Pending
	Agenda Item 27 th NC Meeting	Ms McMahan/Mr Taylor	Done
	NETWORK RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY: STANDING ITEM		
	Revise Template (from 25 th Meeting)	Ms McMahan/Mr Hardwick/Ms Werner	Pending
	Agenda Item 27 th NC Meeting	Ms McMahan/Mr Taylor	Done
16.	NEXT MEETING		
	Organise 27 th Network NC Meeting 25/26 February 2013 in Melbourne	Ms McMahan	Done

The Chair discussed the following matters that remain outstanding from previous meetings.

3.1 Australian Commission for Quality and Safety in Healthcare (ACSQHC)

Ms McMahon reported that negotiations for an ACSQHC Representative to attend a meeting of the NC continue.

3.4 Online Registration for Network

The Meeting noted that an Application Form had been developed for the Network website that would enable people wishing to join the Network to register online. The NC then viewed the draft Application Form on the Network's website and made several amendments to the content to ensure that:

- applicants are restricted to registering as a *Consumer*, a *Carer*, or as a *Friend of the Network*; and
- applicants are given the option of providing their permission for their email address to be provided to the Network's State Coordinator for their jurisdiction for the purpose of receiving information on local Network activities.

After applicants have completed the registration form and clicked the send icon, their request will be forwarded directly to the PMHA Director and the Network Chair via email. The PMHA Director then registers their details on the Network database securely held at the offices of the Federal AMA in Canberra. An email confirming registration is then sent by the PMHA Director to the new Network Member, with a copy to the Network Chair.

After discussion of the new online registration system, the Meeting agreed that the text of the email sent by the PMHA Director confirming registration should also be amended, along the following lines, to encourage new Members to contact their State Coordinator if they are interested in Network activity within their jurisdiction.

If you would like more information on Network activity in your jurisdiction, please contact your State Coordinator at the email address above.

3.5 Network Budget and Promotional Material

The Chair is progressing the development and printing of promotional material that can be easily adapted for use in the private hospital setting and at key national stakeholder and other conferences. Costs will be met from the Network's budget operating surplus.

4. NETWORK BUDGET UPDATE

Ms McMahon reported on the Statement of Income and Expenditure prepared for the Network by the Australian Medical Association (AMA), for the period 1 July 2012 to 31 December 2012. It was noted that the surplus evident remaining at the end of the 2011–12 Financial Year (FY) had been carried forward into Network Budget for the current 2012–13 FY.

The Meeting then discussed the Network funds held in a separate bank account in South Australia. It was agreed that these funds should remain quarantined for Network development and sustainability, beyond what the Network's operational budget can

accommodate. It was felt important that these funds if at all possible, should somehow be separated from the operating budget so that any Network surplus can be identified more accurately and better reflect the overall budget. It was agreed that the funds held in the separate bank account in South Australia will be used for professional development for Network NC Members, Conference attendance, Network profile raising, and support for Network State Coordinators and their state-based activities. The Network Executive will assess all requests for such support received from NC Members and an internal document will be developed to assist the selection process.

Resolved (Unanimous)

1. *That the National Committee (NC) of the Private Mental Health Consumer Carer Network (Australia) [Network] approves the Network funds, held in a bank account at BANK SA, be directed toward Network development and sustainability beyond what the Network's operational budget can accommodate. This includes professional development for Network NC Members, Conference attendance, Network profile raising, and support for Network State Coordinators and their jurisdictional activities.*
2. *The NC directs the Network Executive to undertake assessment of all proposals for such support received from NC Members and to develop an internal Policy to assist the selection process.*

5. NETWORK GOVERNANCE DOCUMENTS

The activities of the Network, and those of the Private Mental Health Alliance (PMHA) and its Centralised Data Management Service (CDMS), are all currently supported under a funding agreement known as the *AMA Agreement for Services 2011–13* (Agreement). This Agreement covers the Financial Year (FY) period, 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2013. The Parties to the agreement are:

- AMA;
- Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA);
- Australian Private Hospitals Association (APHA);
- Private Healthcare Australia (PHA); and
- beyondblue

Under the Agreement, these Parties make funding contributions for the provision of the services required to support the operation of all three entities. All Parties contribute to support the activities of the Network. For the PMHA, all stakeholders, except beyondblue, make equal contributions. The PHA, APHA and DoHA make equal contributions to support the PMHA's CDMS.

The current Agreement expires on 30 June 2013, so the next funding agreement needs to be in place by 1 July 2013 to provide certainty for these activities going forward. The substantive work involved negotiating and drafting the next *AMA Agreement for Services 2013–15* to cover the next two Financial Years, 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2015, has now been mostly completed. This process has provided an ideal opportunity to review the governance arrangements for the Network and to implement a more formal

review and appointment process for the Network's Office Bearers from 1 July 2013.

Since the last meeting of the NC the Network's Deputy Co-Chair, Ms Kim Werner, has completed a review of the governance arrangements for the Network and prepared a suite of governance documents for discussion with the NC at this Meeting.

The NC then work shopped and where necessary amended the suite of governance documents prepared by Ms Werner to cover the period of the next AMA Agreement for Services 2013–15. In doing so, two key decisions were made, which were then reflected throughout the governance documents.

Firstly, the NC agreed the position title Independent Chair of the Network should be amended to remove the word *Independent*. The Chair of the Network must be either a consumer or carer appointed by the AMA on behalf of the Parties to the AMA Agreement who fund the Network. They cannot, therefore, be considered independent.

Secondly, the NC agreed that the primary role for the Network's State Coordinators going forward should be the establishment of more informal *State Advisory Forums*, rather than formal committee structures. This should facilitate a more flexible arrangement for State Coordinators and a more rewarding experience for Forum participants. It was agreed that a succinct list of outcomes should then form the basis of the report on each Forum.

At the end of the work shop, the NC adopted and endorsed the governance documents en bloc.

Resolved (unanimous)

1. *That the National Committee (NC) of the Private Mental Health Consumer Carer Network (Australia) [Network] agrees that the position title of the Independent Chair of the Network be revised to Network Chair.*
2. *That the NC approves the revised structure for jurisdictional engagement to be known as Network State Advisory Forums for Network State Coordinators to engage with their respective constituencies.*
3. *That the NC adopts and endorses en bloc the following documents developed to support the governance of the Network and its Office Bearers for the period 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2015, in alignment with the term of the AMA Agreement for Services 2013–15.*
 - *Network Position Description Chair*
 - *Network Position Description Deputy Chairs*
 - *Network Position Description and Nomination Process for State Coordinators*
 - *Information for Consumer and Carer State Advisory Forum Participants*
 - *Network Code of Behaviour*
 - *Network Operating Guidelines 2013–15*

4. *That the NC extends its sincere thanks to Ms Kim Werner for reviewing the Network's governance arrangements and developing the necessary documents to guide and support the operation of the Network and its Office Bearers.*
5. *That the NC requests that the Chair seek the endorsement of the Private Mental Health Alliance for the Network Governance Documents going forward.*

Action: Ms Janne McMahon

6 NETWORK WORK PLAN 2013–15

The Meeting reviewed the Network Workplan that is being developed to cover the two Financial Years (FYs), 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2015. While the Work Plan is now largely completed some minor amendments were made.

Resolved (unanimous)

1. *That the National Committee (NC) of the Private Mental Health Consumer Carer Network (Australia) [Network] endorses and adopts the Network Work Plan 2013–15, as amended at the 27th meeting of the Network held on 25/26 February 2013 in Melbourne.*
2. *That the NC requests that the Chair seek the endorsement of the Private Mental Health Alliance for the Network Work Plan 2013–15.*

Action: Ms Janne McMahon

6.1 Project Brief for Australian Guidelines for Working with Carers of People with a Mental Illness

Under its Workplan for 2013–15, the NC is developing a collaborative carer project for the development of 'Australian Guidelines for Working with Carers of People with a Mental Illness' (Guidelines). It is intended that the Guidelines would be applicable to all settings in which mental health care is delivered and across a range of age groups. A consortium of the organisations would be involved with the Network as the lead agency. Mental Health Carers ARAFMI WA Inc. is willing to undertake the necessary contractual agreements for the project and to hold and administer the project funding.

Ms McMahon reported on discussions that are underway with both the Mental Health Council of Australia and DoHA concerning the project and the funding required.

The Meeting then discussed a copy of the in confidence draft of the project brief.

Ms Henry suggested the project brief could be strengthened through inclusion of appropriate references in footnotes. The brief should also make it clear as to why Mrs Judy Hardy has been selected to conduct the Project. Mr Hardwick suggested the Brief should identify that this has been done for continuity between the *Identifying the Carer Project*, from which this new project arose, that was successfully conducted by Mrs Hardy.

Mr Wotherspoon felt it would be important to ensure that Carers Australia are involved in some way. The Chair advised that the Executive Officer of Carers Australia SA had been a member of the three previous national carer projects and would again be invited to be a member of the Guidelines Development Committee.

Mr Bichara suggested Mental Health Multicultural Australia would also be interested

Resolved (unanimous)

That the National Committee (NC) of the Private Mental Health Consumer Carer Network (Australia) [Network] supports the Project Brief titled, Australian Guidelines for Working with Carers of People with a Mental Illness and requests that the Chair seek the endorsement of the Private Mental Health Alliance for the Project going forward and any views they may have on the draft Project Brief.

Action: Ms Janne McMahon

7. NETWORK COMMUNICATION PLAN 2013–15

The Meeting reviewed the Network's draft Communication Plan and its Media Protocol to cover the next two Financial Years 2013–15 in alignment with the period of the *AMA Agreement for Services 2013–15*.

In doing so, the Meeting discussed whether it was still useful to include production of a Network Newsletter, in the Communication Plan, now that monthly e-News Alerts were being produced and circulated to Network Members. It was agreed that a biannual Newsletters should be produced that provides much more detailed information on Network activity. Ms McMahon and Ms Lucy Henry agreed to undertake responsibility for the Newsletter.

Ms Henry also offered to assist with the development of any Network Media Releases, which could then be promulgated through the AMA's Media Release Network, albeit as a Release of the Network not the AMA. The Meeting agreed that the Network's Media Protocol should be amended to ensure that all Media Releases are discussed with the Independent Chair of the PMHA and the AMA Media Department, prior to release.

Resolved (unanimous)

- 1. That the National Committee (NC) of the Private Mental Health Consumer Carer Network (Australia) [Network] endorses and adopts the Network Communication Plan 2013–15, to cover the period 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2015.*
- 2. That the NC requests that the Chair seek the endorsement of the Private Mental Health Alliance for the Network Communication Plan 2013–15.*

Action: Ms Janne McMahon

8. RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Meeting reviewed its Network's Risk Management Plan and revised its structure to include the real risks to the Network. The Plan is intended to be a useful tool to the NC.

Financial Risks

1. *Reductions or cessation in ongoing Funding*
2. *Budget over runs*

Strategic Risks

3. *Inappropriate alliances*
4. *PMHA failure to endorse Network activity*
5. *Criticism of Network by other organisations*
6. *Member dissatisfaction with Network performance*
7. *AMA ceasing to auspice the Network*
8. *Difficulty replacing Chair*
9. *Difficulty replacing Deputy Chairs*
10. *Difficulty replacing State Coordinators*

Operational Risks Category

11. *National Committee Members health*
12. *National Committee Non-compliance with Network Governance*
13. *Confidentiality breaches*
14. *Internal conflict*

Ms McMahon will flesh out the comments column. NC Members agreed to provide any feedback to McMahon that might assist with that process.

It was agreed that it would be useful for the NC to provide a copy of the Risk Management Plan for the information of the PMHA.

Resolved (unanimous)

That the National Committee (NC) of the Private Mental Health Consumer Carer Network (Australia) [Network] endorses the Network Risk Management Plan and requests that a copy be provided for the information of the Private Mental Health Alliance.

Action: Ms Janne McMahon

9. NETWORK POLICIES

The Chair explained that there are two types of Network policy documents. The first are *Internal policies* for formalising mechanisms pertaining to the governance of the Network. The second are *external policies*, or *position statements*, which are in the public domain.

Having completed its review and endorsement of all Network governance arrangements

and related internal documents and policies, the Meeting devoted some time to the following *External Network Policies*.

9.1 New External Policies

A copy of the draft of *Network Policy 11 Payment for consumer and carer participation* was considered, further amended, and then endorsed.

Resolved (unanimous)

That the National Committee (NC) of the Private Mental Health Consumer Carer Network (Australia) [Network] endorses Network Policy 11: Payment for consumer and carer participation and requests that the Network State Coordinators refer this policy to their State Advisory Forums for review.

Action: State Coordinators

The Meeting then considered progress with the development of *Network Policy 12 Skills development for consumer and carer representatives*. After discussion, Mr Wotherspoon agreed to continue working with Ms McMahon on revising Policy 12 to specifically address skills development. Another policy should be developed specifically on training.

9.2 Review of existing External Policies

The following External Policies of the Network, which are due for review, were discussed.

Policy 1: Smoking within Private Hospitals, October 2009

Policy 2: Consent, June 2010

Policy 3: Advance Directives, June 2010

Policy 4: Health Information Privacy and Security, June 2010

Policy 6: Consumer and Carer Participation within Private Mental Health Services, September 2010

Policy 7: Involuntary Treatment and Detention, September 2010

After making some minor amendments, the revised versions of these Policies were adopted and endorsed.

Resolved (unanimous)

1. That the National Committee (NC) of the Private Mental Health Consumer Carer Network (Australia) [Network] adopts and endorses en bloc the following External Policies of the Network as revised by the meeting of the NC held on 25/26 February 2013.

Policy 1: Smoking within Private Hospitals

Policy 2: Consent

Policy 3: Advance Directives

Policy 4: Health Information Privacy and Security

Policy 6: Consumer and Carer Participation within Private Mental Health Services

Policy 7: Involuntary Treatment and Detention

2. That the NC requests that the revised policies be included on the Network's website at www.pmhccn.com.au.

Action: Mr Taylor

10 NETWORK MEMBER SURVEY

The core business of the Network is to provide a strong voice to advocate for all consumers and carers of private mental health settings on systemic issue of national significance. It is therefore essential that the issues and concerns of consumers and carers who are Network Members and those who are not are reflected clearly in the activities of the Network going forward.

To canvas the issues and concerns of consumers and carers who are Network Members a survey is conducted at regular intervals. To date, two surveys have been undertaken in 2009 and 2011.

The Meeting then considered the results of these surveys and discussed what questions would need to be included in the next survey to be conducted this year.

NC Members felt the questions for the next survey should seek to address the following fundamental questions.

- What are the systemic issues for consumer and carers that should be taken through to the national level by the Network?
- What should the Network be doing to advance those issues?
- What issues would you like the Network to focus on?

Ms McMahon agreed to develop some questions for further discussion via email with NC Members.

11. NETWORK EXECUTIVE REPORTS

The purpose of this Standing Agenda Item is for the NC to receive reports from the Executive Officers of the Network on the activities undertaken and opportunities sought on behalf of the Network. The Executive of the Network is currently comprised by the Chair, Ms McMahon, and the Network's two Deputy Chairs, Mr Hardwick, and Ms Werner.

11.1 Network Deputy Chairs

Ms Werner reported that most of her time since the last meeting of the NC had been devoted to the review and development of Network governance documents, and review of related Network policies.

Due to time constraints, Mr Hardwick briefly updated the NC on the following meetings attended via printed sheet.

- National Mental Health Consumer Carer Forum (NMHCCF) Telconference
- Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program (MHNIP) Evaluation Group Canberra
- MHNIP Roundtable with Minister Butler in Adelaide
- PMHA Quality Improvement Project (QIP) Steering Committee in Adelaide
- PMHA Collaborative Care Models Working Group (CCMWG) in Canberra
- Assessed 135 scholarship applications for SARRAH NMHSNF meeting in Sydney
- PMHCCN Carer Project Teleconference
- Disability/Rights in Mental Health Workshop in Sydney
- Selection Panel for Consumers/Carers for WA Mental Health Diversion Court for the WA Mental Health Commission
- RANZCP Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Project
- The opening by WA Premier of Joondalup Sub–acute facility
- Perth Clinic Consumer/Supporter meeting

The Meeting noted Mr Hardwick's upcoming activities include the following.

- Talking to group of GPs for Doctor Australia
- Presentation to Mental Health Conference of Pharmaceutical society of Australia in WA
- Meeting of National Carer Strategy Implementation Reference Group in Canberra
- NMHSNF meeting Brisbane
- PMHA /QIP meeting Canberra
- NMHCCF meeting Melbourne

11.2 Network Chair

The Meeting note the following activities of the Network Chair, which had been circulated with the agenda and papers for the Meeting.

Date	Location	Meeting or Event Attended
8/10/2011	Melbourne	Australian Psychological Accreditation Council Board
22/10/2012	Adelaide	SA Health, Mental Health Unit Consumer Reference Group
25/10/2012	Adelaide	RANZCP CEO and President
2/11/2012	Canberra	PMHA Collaborative Care Models Working Group
5/11/2012	Melbourne	Australian Psychological Accreditation Council Board
7/11/2012	Adelaide	PMHA Senior Research Officer
8/11/2012	Adelaide	PMHA Quality Improvement Project Steering Committee
9/11/2012	Adelaide	PMHA Meeting
20/11/2013	Canberra	FaHCSIA National Carer Strategy Implementation Reference Group
22/11/2013	Melbourne	RANZCP Community Collaboration Committee
7/03/2013	Canberra	PMHA Quality Improvement Project Steering Committee
5/12/2012	Melbourne	APHA, Psychiatry Committee
10/12/2012	Melbourne	Australian Psychological Accreditation Council Board
12/12/2012	Teleconference	RANZCP Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Working Group
14/12/2012	Adelaide	Ms Judy Hardy, Carer Guidelines Project
17/12/2012	Adelaide	SA Health, Mental Health Unit Consumer Reference Group
17/1/2013	Adelaide	The Hon. Mark Butler MP
23/1/2013	Teleconference	Australian Psychological Accreditation Council Board
1/2/2013	Adelaide	Ms Judy Hardy, Carer Guidelines Project
4/2/2013	Teleconference	RANZCP Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Working Group
8/2/2013	Melbourne	APHA, Psychiatry Committee
18/2/2013	Melbourne	Australian Psychological Accreditation Council Board

Upcoming Meetings and events for the Chair include the following.

Date	Location	Upcoming Event
4/3/13	Melbourne	Special meeting, Australian Psychological Accreditation Council Board
5/3/2013	Adelaide	ACHS State Committee
7/3/2012	Canberra	PMHA's Quality Improvement Project Steering Committee
8/03/2013	Canberra	PMHA Meeting
25/3/2013	Melbourne	Australian Psychological Accreditation Council Board
5/4/2013	Melbourne	RANZCP, Board of Practice and Partnerships
12/04/2013	Canberra	PMHA Collaborative Care Models Working Group

The Meeting noted a small number of other informal meetings have occurred over lunch with Dr Maria Tomasic, RANZCP President and Mr David Pearson, Senior Mental Health Advisor to Premier Jay Weatherill (formerly Advisor to Minister Mark Butler) to discuss the Network and issues relevant to mental health consumers and carers more broadly.

Liaison with Mr Francis Sullivan continued regarding the requirements of the PMHA under the AMA Agreement for Services, 2011–13. The Meeting noted that Mr Sullivan had resigned as the AMA Secretary General at the end of 2012. Mr Taylor reported it

is unlikely that a new Secretary General for the AMA will be appointed before May 2013. The NC expressed their thanks to Mr Sullivan for his strong support and advice, and noted that he will be missed from the position. The NC expressed the view that he is a very good choice in his new appointment as head of the Catholic Church's, Truth Justice and Healing Council.

Resolved (unanimous)

That the National Committee (NC) of the Private Mental Health Consumer Carer Network (Australia) [Network] extends its appreciation to Mr Francis Sullivan for his invaluable support for the Network and its NC during his term as the Secretary General of the Australian Medical Association.

Action: Ms Janne McMahon

Liaison also continues with Prof Lyn Littlefield, Australian Psychological Society and with the Mental Health Coordinating Council of NSW, Adult Survivors of Sexual Abuse and the Committee around Trauma Informed Care and Practice.

12. NETWORK STATE COODINATOR REPORTS

The Chair invited the Network's State Coordinators present to report on activities in their jurisdiction and to raise any other relevant matters.

12.1 Queensland

The NC noted the copy of the minutes of the Queensland Network meeting held on 4 December 2012 at New Farm Clinic. The Network's Queensland Coordinator, Mr Norm Wotherspoon, reported on that meeting. It was noted that the meeting has asked that the issue of psychosis be looked at by the NC. After discussion, it was agreed that it might be worth developing a Network discussion paper on psychosis if Mr Wotherspoon could clarify what aspects of this diagnosis should be explored.

In response to the QLD Committee query about Network e-News Alert, Ms McMahon confirmed that these are only intended to be informal communications and that a Network Newsletter will be distributed in due course. The substantive work involved in negotiating the next *AMA Agreement for Services 2013-15* has precluded the development of a Newsletter.

Resolved (unanimous)

That the National Committee (NC) of the Private Mental Health Consumer Carer Network (Australia) [Network] requests that the development of a discussion paper on psychosis be included on the agenda for the next NC meeting. Mr Wotherspoon is asked to explore with the Network Queensland Committee (now State Advisory Forum) what the focus of that paper might be.

Action: Mr Norm Wotherspoon

12.2 Victoria

The Network's Victorian State Coordinator, Mr Evan Bichara, reported on the recent

meeting of the Victorian State Committee that only two people attended. In future, for the Network's Victorian State Advisory Forum, Mr Bichara will target newer private hospitals in consultation with Janne McMahon noting that Ms McMahon had written to three private hospitals who current have no representation. The next Forum will be held on 23 March 2013 at Delmont Private Hospital.

12.3 Western Australia

In his capacity as the Network's Western Australia Coordinator, Mr Patrick Hardwick, reported on progress with Network activity in WA. There have been a couple of meetings at the Perth Clinic, only two people participated in the most recent meeting. Mr Hardwick is planning meetings with the following private hospitals in WA.

- Hollywood Private Hospital
- The Marian Centre
- Sentiens

12.4 Tasmania

The Network's Tasmanian Coordinator, Ms Lucy Henry, reported on the presentation that she gave about the Network to the meeting of Flourish, the new peak consumer group.

Ms Henry is hoping to organise a State Advisory Forum for April 2013.

12.5 Australian Capital Territory (ACT) and New South Wales (NSW)

In her capacity as the Network's Coordinator for the ACT Ms Werner, reported on the interest Hyson Green at Calvary Private Hospital has expressed in progressing involvement with the Network. Ms Werner is organising for Ms McMahon to meet with Hyson Green to discuss this involvement further.

13. NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME

The Australian Government introduced to Parliament on 29 November 2012 draft legislation to introduce a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). The NDIS will give people with disability a right to realise their potential, and to make choices and be in control of the decisions that affect their lives.

The draft legislation sets out a framework for the national scheme – the first stage of which will benefit more than 20,000 people with disability, their families and carers in the Hunter in NSW, the Barwon area of Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, and the ACT.

The legislation will establish the NDIS Launch Transition Agency as an independent body, working with people to identify their goals and aspirations, and providing them with the support they need to help them reach their full potential.

The Agency will also work with service providers and other organisations to make sure people with disability can access the kind of care and support they need to pursue their goals, including supporting carers in their important role.

The Australian Government has established the NDIS Advisory Group to help steer the development of the scheme and ensure people with disability are involved in the design.

The Senate Community Affairs Committee invited the Network to provide a Submission due by 25 January, 2013. The draft Submission was distributed to the National Committee for amendment/endorsement with a final Submission sent to the Committee on 25th January. The Network Chair gave evidence to the Inquiry around the importance of carer involvement being enshrined in the NDIS legislation, rather than just in the NDIS rules and explained that within mental health, the nomination of carers by the person they care for, is becoming better recognised and formalised. It has also been put to the Inquiry by a consumer that the NDIS is at odds with recovery movement in mental health. Ms McMahon responded that under the NDIS disability support worker and agencies need to work toward a recovery philosophy by encompassing within the plan a person with a disability's goals and aspirations as well as providing practical assistance.

Ms Henry reported that, in Tasmania, there is virtually no supported housing available for people with psychosocial disability, who really need to have a safe home.

Ms McMahon reinforced with the Inquiry that just because a person with a mental illness does not have a visible physical disability does not mean they are any less disabled.

Ms McMahon also pointed out to the Inquiry the need for processes to be streamlined to better support people with a disability who have to currently negotiate multiple agencies and services.

The website for the NDIS Bill 2012 can be found at:

<http://www.ndis.gov.au/towards/ndis-draft-legislation/>

Over the next few months, the NDIS Advisory Group will be asking design questions about the scheme and may be seeking the Network's feedback.

When Ms McMahon has received notice that the Hansard record of the Inquiry has been posted onto the Committee's website, she will advise the NC members.

The NC agreed to advise Ms McMahon of any further key issues which need to be raised concerning the NDIS.

14 OTHER BUSINESS

Ms McMahon reported that there is a small surplus of \$1028 remaining in external funding that was secured for the October 2012 Borderline Personality Disorder Conference. Ms McMahon will advise NC Members on the Congress detailing how the surplus might be used to promulgate the Conference proceedings.

15 NEXT MEETING

Ms McMahon will advise of the timing and date of the next face-to-face meeting of the Network NC, which will be held in the second half of 2013, possibly to coincide with the THeMHS Conference, to be held from 20–13 August 2013 in Melbourne, or to coincide with the availability of Ms Robyn Kruk, CEO National Mental Health Commission who will be invited to attend.

Ms Janne McMahon OAM
Independent Chair

Mr Phillip Taylor
Secretary