



Communiqué

October, 2012

The purpose of this one page Communiqué is to keep our members informed about the major discussions, deliberations and activities at each face to face meeting of the National Committee. These meetings are held twice each year, usually in February and August. This is a new initiative and we hope that it gives you some indication of our meeting content. We would be pleased to hear any comments you may wish to make about any of these issues.

The Network held its twenty sixth meeting on the 6th and 7th October, 2012 in Adelaide. Major items of discussion were:

- **Work Plan for 2013-2015**

The Network is funded for the period 2011-2013 under an AMA Agreement for Services. Contributing funders are the Australian Medical Association, Australian Private Hospitals Association, Private Healthcare Australia, beyondblue and the Australian Government, Department of Health and Ageing. Additional funds are currently received as donations from the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists and the Australian Psychological Society. As part of negotiating a new funding agreement for 2013-15, the Network is required to develop a Work Plan for the two year funding cycle. Discussion took place around the focus for the Network going forward. The new Work Plan 2013-2015 will be titled '**Strengthening Relationships**' and this will encapsulate our activities for the period.

- **Governance**

The Network is developing internal process documents for the appointment, performance reviews, roles, and responsibilities of State Coordinators in line with job descriptions and these were discussed fully at the meeting. There are currently internal process documents for the Chair and Deputy Co-Chairs including Letters of Appointment. We have been guided by documents from the National Mental Health Consumer Carer Forum and others to ensure consistency across peak consumer carer advocacy organisations.

- **Network Policies - endorsed**

The following Policies were endorsed by the National Committee and appear on our website:

- Carer Support
- Employment, Disability and Mental Illness
- Best Practice Provision of Private Mental Health Services

- **Network Policies - under review**

- Payment for consumer and carer participation
- Training and skills development for consumer and carer representatives

- **State network meeting reports**

A standing item at each meeting is the detailed discussion of reports from State Coordinators about their activities within their jurisdiction. Discussions outlined some great work being done in Queensland by Norm Wotherspoon and in Victoria by Evan Bichara and our WA Coordinator Patrick Hardwick is visiting all private psychiatric hospitals in Perth.

Once the National Committee has endorsed the meeting minutes they will be posted on our website at www.pmhccn.com.au where you can read the full content of the two days.