

**NT Mental Health Coalition** eBulletin - featuring NDIS News, General News, Events and Conferences, Employment

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NT Mental Health Coalition's (the Coalition) e-bulletin has updates, news and information related to the Mental Health sector and the Community Managed Mental Health (CMHA) sector.

Please forward this to anyone you think may be interested in highlights from this edition, or interested in becoming a member of the Northern Territory Mental Health Coalition.

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**NT Mental Health Coalition News**



## Mental Health Week

8-15 October 2017

To all the organisations and community groups who were part of a successful Mental Health Week and launch last year, *talk, support, recovery in the park* at the Jingili Water Gardens. The Coalition is calling on members and interested community groups to form a working committee to co-ordinate and plan for Mental Health Week 2017. To register your interest in being part of the committee please contact Vanessa Harris [eo@ntmhc.org.au](mailto:eo@ntmhc.org.au) or phone 8948 2246.

## NDIS News

### NDIS Information Session Schedule for February - June 2017.

NDIA is hosting a series of information sessions in various locations:

Darwin, Alice Springs, Katherine and Tiwi Islands. For more information and to register [click here](#)

**Please note:** the Darwin sessions set down for the 10th April have been cancelled and rescheduled for Monday 3rd April 2017. Queries can be emailed to: [nt.engagement@ndis.gov.au](mailto:nt.engagement@ndis.gov.au)

### NDIS Mental Health Network Update for 2017 you'll find information about:

- recently released NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework
- open grants for NDIS information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC)

- current Parliamentary Inquiry into the provision of services under the NDIS for people with mental illness
- Productivity Commission review into NDIS costs
- free NDIS webinar on developing your first plan
- peer-led NDIS workshop resources
- new Publications by the Mental Health Coordinating Council (MHCC) of New South Wales
- revisions to the NDIS Provider Toolkit
- Mental Health Coordinating Council 'Share Your NDIS Story' initiative

### **NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework.**

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Disability Reform Council recently released the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework. The Framework can be found [here](#).

### **New Productivity Commission review of NDIS Costs.**

The Productivity Commission (PC) has commenced a study to review the costs of the NDIS. The study will examine a number of issues, including; the sustainability of scheme costs, jurisdictional capacity, cost pressures, and impact on mainstream services. An issues paper is due for release this month, to assist organisations to make a submission. Mental Health Australia is engaging with the Productivity Commission to provide information and feedback throughout the review process. The position paper is due to be released in May 2017 and the final report is to be delivered in September 2017. More information on the review can be found [here](#).

### **Peer-led NDIS Information Session resources Available Online.**

In 2016, Mental Health Australia engaged Richmond Wellbeing to design and deliver peer-education modules and train-the-trainer workshops in each State and Territory. The workshops were locally tailored to improve understanding of the NDIS among people with psychosocial disability and their carers, build their capacity to exercise choice and control, and encourage a move towards self management and independence. The resources used to guide the workshops are available on the Mental Health Australia's website. Click [here](#)

### **NDIS Provide Toolkit - Revised Guide to Suitability.**

The toolkit is a resource for providers to complete and manage their registration for the scheme within myPlace. The NDIA has recently revised Module 4 of the toolkit, the NDIS Guide to Sustainability, following consultation and feedback from the disability sector and jurisdictions. For more information click [here](#)

### **Coming soon:**

**Mental Health Coordinating Council (MHCC) Online Resource soon: Psychosocial Disability and the NDIS.** MHCC in partnership with the NDIS are developing a national online platform to help people with psychosocial disabilities and their carers to better understand and navigate the NDIS, and identify what supports are available. The online resource is designed as a one-stop-shop to help people with lived experience re imagine their lives and recovery journey. The interactive platform will include tools to help consumers prepare, plan and discuss their NDIS access request. It will outline the

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steps and processes required to apply for NDIS funding, explain NDIS language and present alternatives if an application is unsuccessful. The resource is co-designed by people with lived experience of psychosocial disability and engagement with the NDIS.

The platform is currently under-development and will be launched in March this year. If you would like to be notified on the progress of the project and the launch please email: [info@mhcc.org.au](mailto:info@mhcc.org.au)

#### **NDIS To Trial Virtual Assistant, Nadia.**

NDIA has announced the development of a 'virtual assistant', **Nadia**, to provide information about the NDIS to people with disability, when and how they want it. **Nadia** has been co-designed by people with disability, with the NDIS Digital Innovation Reference Group taking the lead. **Nadia** will be accessible 24/7 through the *myplace* portal. **Nadia** can speak, write and chat online, and has been designed to meet international accessibility guidelines. Developing your first plan. To understand how to develop a plan. Click [here](#)

**The Australian National Audit Office (ANAO)** is conducting a performance audit on the effectiveness of controls implemented by the NDIA to deliver NDIS eligibility assessments that are consistent with legislative and other requirements. Specifically, the ANAO proposes to examine whether:

1. Suitable information, training and guidance is available to support effective decision-making about access to the NDIS.
2. Suitable administrative systems and processes are in place to support transparent, accurate, timely and consistent assessment of eligibility, and
3. Suitable quality and compliance arrangements that have been established to mitigate the risk of incorrect NDIS access decisions.

The Office is welcoming members of the public to contribute to the audit by sharing information and experiences that provide insight into how well the NDIA is implementing decision-making processes. This audit is important given the mental health sector is reporting inconsistent outcomes from NDIS assessment of people with psychosocial disability. The audit presents an excellent opportunity to determine if there is inconsistency and why it is occurring, and to identify the mechanisms required for fair and consistent assessment of people with psychosocial disability. Contributions will be accepted until Friday 5 May, for more information click [here](#)

### **National Disability Services**

#### **Resources, tools and products for the disability sector**

##### ***Community Inclusion Initiative***

Community participation is an integral element in supporting people with disability. It is included in 50 per cent of all plans for NDIS participants, making it the second most funded support. for more information click [here](#)

##### ***Community Inclusion Initiative Factsheets***

Click [here](#) to view and download fact sheets

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# Community Mental Health Australia (CMHA)

The Community Mental Health Australia (CMHA) is a coalition of eight state and territory peak community mental health organisations. CMHA, through its state and territory bodies, has direct link and contact to mental health organisations delivering services to the community. The NT Mental Health Coalition is a founding and a board member of the CMHA.

CMHA, Executive Director, Amanda Bresnan on behalf of CMHA members reports the following:

## Productivity Commission NDIS Costs Inquiry.

CMHA submission is number 11 and available on the Productivity Commission website, [click here](#)

Key recommendations include:

- The NDIS Act must be reviewed now that the legislation is actually at implementation, as recommended by Ernst and Young's 2015 review of the NDIS legislation.
- There must be indicators that sit along-side the indicator of the number of people receiving plans, such as the number of reviews and appeals requested and consumer satisfaction with and an understanding of plans received.
- The Department of Health must continue to fund a low barrier to entry, flexible program for people living with a mental illness who will not be eligible for the NDIS.
- The planning process must be conducted by people with experience in and an understanding of mental health and culturally relevant factors; consumers must be able to view and understand a plan before it is finalised; and assessment and planning for people living with a mental illness or people who do not have English as a first or second language must be conducted face-to-face and not over the telephone, unless it is determined this is appropriate.
- Support for carers of people living with a mental illness should be separate to the NDIS.
- Quality assurance processes specifically tailored for psychosocial support services must be developed as a part of the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework.

2017-18 Federal Pre-Budget Submission:

CMHA have completed their 2017-2018 Federal Pre-Budget Submission and promoting the submission to Federal MPs including Minister for Health Greg Hunt's office, Shadow Minister for Social Services, and Shadow Minister for Mental Health Julie Collins, and Senator Rachel Siewert, Greens Spokesperson for Mental Health and Social Services. The Pre-Budget Submission has been developed in consultation with the States and Territories. The Submission puts forward six defined budget initiatives that are concrete measures to address issues occurring with the various mental

health reforms and the NDIS that could be considered for inclusion in the 2017-18 Federal Budget. To view the submission click [here](#)

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## Other

**Department of Health - The Turnbull Government appoints a new mental health advisory panel.** The Australian Government is establishing a new mental health advisory panel to support our commitment to improve services to those that need them. Click [here](#) to view

**"We will have the services to help you": Health Minister Greg Hunt says Mental Health a National Priority (radio)** Click [here](#) to view or listen to the interview.

**Prison study reveals high rate of self-harm after the release and mental health failures.**

One in 15 newly-released prisoners attend hospital for self-harm but emergency departments are failing in their obligations to conduct comprehensive mental health assessments, new research shows. For more information [Click here](#)

**CRANApplus**, collaborative, engaging and connected workplaces: a symposium looking at the wicked problem of workplace conflict. 25-26 May 2017. If you feel you would like to participate in this exciting two-day event, please contact Colleen, Director of CRANApplus Bush Support Services, email: [colleen@crana.org.au](mailto:colleen@crana.org.au) or click [here](#) for more information.

### **Congress Link Up Service**

Congress Link Up Service supports Aboriginal people living in Central Australia who have been separated from their families through forced removal, fostering, adoption and/or institutionalisation. [Click here](#) for more information.

**Invitation to participate in Murdoch University survey: examining the Relationship between Gratitude and Caregiver Burden.**

Murdoch University are conducting a study to establish whether feelings of gratitude influence the burden experienced by carers of people with severe mental illnesses.

You can learn more about the survey or participate [via this link](#)

### **The Hocking Fellowship**

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The [Hocking Fellowship](#) provides an opportunity for Australians to undertake a study tour in an area of interest that advances the public understanding of complex mental illness, improves treatment, support and the wellbeing of people affected by mental illness, and contributes to stigma reduction.

Applications for this annual fellowship are open and will close at 11:59pm Wednesday, 12 April, 2017.

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## Events, Conferences & Training

The Coalition in partnership with the NT Primary Health Network is undertaking a compressive review of mental health and suicide prevention services in the Northern Territory. The review is seeking to map the mental health and suicide prevention service systems and to consult with providers, clients and carers to better understand how the system works, and how systems can be improved to effectively meet the needs of those who access it. For more information contact the Coalition office on 8948 2246 or email [admin@ntmhc.org.au](mailto:admin@ntmhc.org.au)

### National NDIS Mental Health Conference in Partnership with CMHA

Community Mental Health Australia (CMHA) invites you to the National NDIS Mental Health Conference **SAVE the DATE - 16 - 17 November 2017 in Sydney**. Venue and event program to be released shortly. Register your interest and we'll notify you of important event updates and when tickets become available. To register your interest for the event is free, ticket prices will be released when ticket sales open. [Register here](#)

### Carers NT Workshops in April - May.

Standard Mental Health First Aid training to Carers over two consecutive days 29/30 April.

Youth Mental Health Education for Carers 6/7 April

Music and Mental Health workshops in 6 May

Phone 1800 242 636 or email [carersnt@carersnt.asn.au](mailto:carersnt@carersnt.asn.au) for more information

### Mental Health Workshop.

'Mental Health Training: Engaging and Working with People who are Experiencing Mental Health Problems'. The presenter is Mike Cassidy from Mental Health Association of Central Australia (MHACA). 23 May at the Alice Springs Convention Centre. [Click here](#) for more information.

### National Suicide Prevention 10 year Blueprint: Invitation to participate.

Suicide Prevention Australia will be leading the development of a 10-year blueprint for coordinated and collaborative action to reduce the impact of suicides in Australia. The consultation period will be late February through to the end of April. To register your interest [click here](#)

### National Suicide Prevention Conference 2017.

The theme this year is 'Relationships, Resilience and Respect'.

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26-29 July 2017, Sofitel Brisbane Central. Click [here](#) for more information.

### **The 18th International Mental Health Conference, 21 -23 August 2017.**

The 2017 Conference will be held at the Conference Centre, Sea World Resort, Gold Coast, Queensland from Monday 21 August – Wednesday 23 August 2017. This year's conference will examine a range of issues from the perspective of *Primary Interventions*, *Promoting Recovery*, *Preventing Relapse* and the latest *Policy Initiatives*. The conference is calling for abstracts. for more information [click here](#)

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## **Employment**

Catholic Care NT provides unique career and personal opportunities that include travel and the experience of working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in both local and remote community settings.

If your interested in working with Catholic Care, [click here](#)

TEAMhealth is a forward thinking organisation with a strong governance structure and a vision that promotes innovative thinking. If your interested in working with TEAMhealth [click here](#)

Anglicare NT offers a range of career opportunities in the community and social services sector in a diverse range of fields such as children and youth, family relationships and counselling, out of home care, refugee and migrant, corporate services, financial counselling, mental health, disability and home care, social enterprises and specialist homelessness services. Anglicare has several positions [click here](#)

Mission Australia provides an opportunity to be part of a diverse, dedicated and friendly group of people who are passionate about making a difference in the community. There are several positions in the NT for more information [click here](#)

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## **Sponsors**

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The Coalition acknowledges the NT Department of Health, Mental Health Directorate as well as our corporate partners for their ongoing support.



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