

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

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**Welcome back the first edition of the e-bulletin for 2017. This year is shaping up to be another busy year for the Coalition and its members.**

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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## **NDIS News**

### **Parliament Joint Standing Committee on the NDIS.**

On Monday 5 December 2016, as part of the Inquiry by the Joint Standing Committee (the Committee) on the NDIS into the implementation, performance and governance of the NDIS, the Committee announced that it would inquire into the provision of services

under the NDIS for people with psychosocial disabilities relating to a mental health condition. The NT Mental Health Coalition strongly urges members and community mental health organisations to consider preparing a submission by the closing date of **27 February 2017**.

In partnership with NTCOSS and NT Shelter the NT Mental Health Coalition is developing a submission to the Committee, survey questions were sent to members last week. Please complete the survey as it will strengthen the submission. To download the terms of reference for the inquiry. [Click here](#)

On the 1st January the **NDIS was rolled-out in East Arnhem** and by all accounts the roll-out was successful.

#### **The NDIS is holding two information sessions in February.**

- Support Coordination workshop - Friday 10th February, for more information and to register. [Click here](#)
- An information session tailored to Service Providers, Government Organisations and Peak Bodies - 17 February, for more information and to register. [Click here](#)

#### **NDIS Trial Evaluation Reports Released.**

The second of three NDIS Trial Evaluation Reports by the National Institute of Labour Studies at Flinders University, commissioned by the Department of Social Services, has now been released. The evaluation project revealed some interesting findings. In particular people with mental health concerns and psychosocial disability are experiencing poorer outcomes and have lower mean measure of wellbeing than other disability groups. They are also reporting less choice and control over their supports.

[To read more](#)

**Guide to Suitability (model 4) has been updated.** The Guide can be found using the link in the Provider Toolkit. [Click here](#)

#### **National Mental Health Sector Reference Group - Sector Communique**

The National Mental Health Sector Reference Group (NMHSRG) has released the Sector Communique from its October 2016 meeting. The core purpose of this group is to ensure people with psychosocial disability accessing the NDIS have the best life they can in the community. [Click here](#)

**To sign up to the the NDIS quarterly e-newsletter.** [Click here](#)

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The e-newsletter provides updates on activities planned for the Northern Territory and includes information forums and training opportunities.

### **Funding news - ILC Funding rounds**

The *Community Inclusion and Capacity Development Program Guidelines – Implementing Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC)* has been released by the National Disability Insurance Agency. These Guidelines describe the two program activities described in the Guidelines: ILC Jurisdictional Based Grants and ILC National Readiness Grants. [Click here](#) for more information.

The first round of the:

- ILC Jurisdictional Based Grants begins in the Australian Capital Territory in late January
- ILC National Readiness Grants is an open round grant also opening in late January.

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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.

The CMHA has developed several submission to the following Inquiries:

- **Productivity Commission Human Services Inquiry.**  
The Productivity Commission released the study report of the inquiry into competition, contestability and user choice in human services on 5 December 2016. This report is the second stage of the Inquiry and is a follow-up to the Issues Paper. CMHA made a submission to the Issues Paper and will be making a submission to this second stage of the inquiry. Submissions close 10 February. All submissions are publicly available on the Productivity Commission website. To download the Study Report. [Click here](#)

- **Productivity Commission Study Report, Overview. Introducing Competition and Informed User Choice into Human Services: Identifying Sectors for Reform.** This report is available on the Coalition's website. To download [click here](#)
- **Productivity Commission NDIS Costs Inquiry.** The Federal Government announced the Inquiry by the Productivity Commission to review the costs of the NDIS on 20 January 2017. To view the media release [click here](#). To register your interest for the inquiry [click here](#).
- **Parliament Joint Standing Committee on the NDIS.**  
CMHA is in the process of developing a submission to the inquiry in consultation with the State and Territory peaks. Some States and Territories will also be developing their own submissions, as well as providing input to CMHA's submission. This will be an important Inquiry and a key mechanism for the community managed mental health sector to be a part of and raise concerns and issues that have emerged through the trials and roll-out of the NDIS. CMHA will be making a submission and we would encourage others to also consider making a submission. To download CMHA's statement and media release. [Click here](#)
- **Fifth National Mental Health Plan consultation**  
The Mental Health Drug and Alcohol Principle Committee (MHDAPC) wrote to stakeholders on 24 January 2017 regarding the consultation process on the Fifth National Mental Health Plan draft and the proposed next stages of the consultation process. The letter notes that 700 people registered to attend the national consultation sessions, and 130 written submissions were received. While the letter acknowledges issues raised related to the Fifth Plan needing to be expanded in scope and become a whole-of-government plan, no other major concerns from the mental health sector and social services sector were discussed, it reiterates that the Fifth Plan is a 'health ministers plan'. The Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council has approved an extension of the timeline for completion of the Fifth Plan, which will now be completed and submitted to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Health Council for consideration at its August 2017 meeting

CMHA continues to lobby to be involved in the consultation process. CMHA's submission on the Fifth Plan is available on the Coalition's website. [Click here](#)

- **National Mental Health Commission economics of mental health symposium**  
CMHA Executive Director Amanda Bresnan attended a symposium organised by the National Mental Health Commission on the economics of mental health in December 2016. The symposium featured a presentation by Professor Martin Knapp from the London School of Economics and Political Science, who has consulted with the UK government and published extensively in the areas of health and social policy. Simon Duffy and Robbi Williams of the Julia Fare Association Incorporated, have developed a paper exploring what Australian governments might learn from arrangements for people with disability.

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- The authors suggest that Australia can learn from the UK's experience regarding the decision-making system, assessment system and design system. To download the report [click here](#)

The National Mental Health Commission is working with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) to explore the economic considerations around mental health in Australia. The project is seeking to bring together national and international experts, jurisdictional representatives and consumers and carers to engage the interest of key government stakeholders and advance options for future policy analysis and development. Information about the symposium and the Commission's project is available [here](#)

CMHA will be attending the Mental Health Reform Stakeholder Group meeting on the 10 February in Canberra. The Group was convened by the Department of Health and includes consumers, carers and key mental health organisation representatives to provide input on and discuss mental health issues and programs as they relate to the health portfolio.

CMHA will also be represented at the National Mental Health Sector Reference Group, convened by the NDIA, by Rod Astbury, CEO WA Association for Mental Health and Amanda Bresnan, Executive Director CMHA. The Reference Group brings together the NDIA, Departmental, consumer, carer and mental health representatives relating to mental health issues within the NDIS.

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## Other

### **Call for applications - National Register of Mental Health Consumer & Carer Representatives.**

Mental Health Australia is currently seeking applications from mental health consumers and carers to participate as members of the National Register. Applications must be completed online and close **12pm AEDT 15th February**. For more information [click here](#)

### **A Survey Examining the Relationship between Gratitude and Caregiver Burden.**

Murdoch University would like to invite carers to participate in an online survey examining the relationship between gratitude and the levels of burden experienced by carers of people with severe mental illnesses. The study is supervised by Professor Paul Morrison at Murdoch University.

For more information and to participate in the survey online. [Click here](#)

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## Events and Conferences

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**NTCOSS 2017** - Governance Foundations for Not-for-profit Directors delivered over 3 mornings:

1st March (9am - 12.30pm) Duties and Responsibilities

5th April (9am - 12.30pm) Strategy and Risk

3rd May (9am - 12.30pm) Finance

For more information and to register [email](#) or phone (08) 8948 2665.

**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](#)

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

Calling for abstracts. If you are interested in attending or to find out more information visit <http://anzmh.asn.au/conference/>

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## Employment

Employment opportunities at Catholic Care, for more information. [Click here](#)

Mental Health Association of Central Australia (MHACA) has two vacancies, Suicide Story Program Manager and Mental Health tenancy worker support. For more information. [Click here](#)

Mission Australia employment opportunities, for more information. [Click here](#)

Anglicare has several positions across the Territory, for more information. [Click here](#)

Sunrise Aboriginal Health Service is currently recruiting community members in Bulman, Ngukurr & Minyerri Communities 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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