

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.

PLEASE NOTE:

**New Postal Address for the Northern Territory Mental Health Coalition is now -
PO Box 157 Nightcliff NT 0814**

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The Coalition in partnership with the Northern Territory Primary Health Network (NT PHN)

recently held *Mental Health & Suicide Prevention Roundtable forums: Developing a Model of Stepped Care in the Northern Territory*, Darwin 4th April and Alice Springs 6th April. Both roundtables were well supported by members, service providers, carers, and the Department of Health with over 40 participants registered in Darwin and over 30 in Alice Springs.

The next roundtable will be held in Katherine on the 16th May with dates to be advised for Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy. To view the presentation and photos please visit our [website](#). for more information on the roundtables or if you wish to attend please contact Roma on 8948 2246 or email admin@ntmhc.org.au

A Carers forum will be held on the 23 May at Carers NT. Do you have a friend or family member who has at one time experienced suicidal thoughts and behavior or had a mental health crisis? If yes, then we need you. We are seeking your input to improve the level of care in the area of mental health and suicide prevention. This is your chance to have your say, what works, what doesn't and what can be done better? For more information click [here](#)

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](#)

Queries can be emailed to: 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. 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 to 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 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

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

Community Mental Health Australia (CMHA)

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 community mental health organisations delivering services to the community. The NT Mental Health Coalition is a founding and a board member of the CMHA.

Community Mental Health Australia Executive Director's Report from Amanda Bresnan – April 2017

Inquiries and submissions:

Productivity Commission inquiry into introducing Competition and Informed User Choice into Human Services: Identifying Sectors for Reform. - Study Report

A submission was made to the Study largely reiterating issues that were made in the CMHA submission to the Preliminary Findings Report as the Study Report presents mostly the same issues along with comments from submissions made to this report. An addendum to the CMHA's submission to the Study Report was made after additional comments and information from the NT Mental Health Coalition regarding best practices in remote Indigenous services. A link to the submission and addendum can be found [here](#)

NDIA Price Review 2017

A submission was made to the NDIA Price Review 2017 on 12 April. Confirmation has been received by the NDIA Markets and Providers Division that CMHA's submission was received. There is no information stating if submissions will be made public, therefore states and territories should share the submission via links on the website or in e-news. The final submission is at [Attachment A](#).

The Australian National Audit Office – Decision-making controls for sustainability NDIS access. CMHA are in the process of developing a draft submission in consultations with its member services in each of the state and territories. Submission are due 5 May. For more information click [here](#)

Fifth National Mental Health Plan

CMHA attended a consultation organised by the Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Principle Committee (MHDAPC) on 22 February to discuss feedback on information received by the sector and to input into the rewrite of the Plan.

There was an acknowledgement and indication given that the 5th National Mental Health Plan must consider cross-government issues, however, the statement being made is that it will still be a Health Minister's plan. There is also a commitment to include information on the intersection with the NDIS. Significant issues were raised by all those at the consultation about workforce and the community-management mental health sector. There are further consultations occurring on the 13 April, the President of CMHA, Liz Crowther will be attending.

Joint Standing Committee on the NDIS inquiry into mental health

CMHA and NT Mental Health Coalition submitted a submission to the Joint Standing Committee on the NDIS inquiry into mental health along with 7 other organisations from the NT.

CMHA have received an invitation to appear before a hearing of the Joint Standing Committee on 28 April. CMHA representative will be represented by Liz Crowther, President and Amanda Bresnan, Executive Director of CMHA. To view all the submissions from around Australia [click here](#) CMHA's submission is #75 and NT Mental Health Coalition's submission is #71.

Meetings

CMHA continues to lobby and advocate on behalf of the community mental health sector with meetings scheduled with the following MPs and or their Advisers:

Paula Gelo, Senior Adviser to Minister Ken Wyatt – 5 April

Senator Malarndirri McCarthy – 8 May

Mike Freeland MP – 22 May

Other key meetings include:

MIND Australia Carers Report launch; National Mental Health Commission, Jane Burns, Ian Hickie and Kathy Casey; National Mental Health Commission Housing and Homelessness and Mental Health workshop; Parliamentary Friends of Mental Illness, Chris Bedford, Assistant Secretary; PHN Branch, Ian Thompson, Nous Consulting.

University of Sydney Community Partnership Funding

CMHA has developed a proposal in partnership with Jennifer Smith-Merry, Associate Professor, University of Sydney for a pool of funding for policy work in partnership with the community mental health sector. The project proposal to the Commonwealth Department of Health is going to examine options for people who won't be eligible for the NDIS but currently access PIR.

Other Matters

On the 24 March Minister for Health, Greg Hunt announced the formation of a Mental Health Advisory Panel to be co-chaired by Dr Peggy Brown and Frank Quinlan from Mental Health Australia.

CMHA is strongly advocating to be on the panel, given it is a coalition of the state and territories and has the closest connection to front-line services.

Other

***The Australian* reports on the views on mental health and the NDIS**

Mental Health in the NDIS, a 'mistake' says Prof Patrick McGorry, April 6 2017.

The last-minute decision to include mental health support in the \$22 billion National Disability Insurance Scheme was a costly, dangerous mistake that should be unwound before lasting damage is done, says the nation's leading mental health advocate. Professor Patrick McGorry, a clinician and former Australian of the year, told *The Australian* the mental health sector should never have been shoehorned into the NDIS because it was a "completely different model". To view the full article [click here](#)

We need the NDIS and our mental health systems working together - Jeff Kennett *The Australian*, April 12, 2017.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme is one of the great reforms of our times. Including mental health in the NDIS is not a mistake. Too often people affected by poor mental health are left out, left behind and excluded. Far from rebuking the scheme, Beyondblue champions this visionary initiative for enabling hundreds of thousands of people with disabling physical and/or mental conditions to choose and pay for the services and supports that best suit them. But we need to be clear about what the NDIS is designed to do — and what it is not. To view the full article [click here](#)

Community Mental Health Australia (CMHA) has been consistent in stating that we remain committed to the NDIS and the benefits that it can bring to the lives of people living with a mental health issues. However, it is vital to ensure that the recovery focus of community managed mental health services is not lost. We do not want to create a situation where some people receive a high level of support and others do not. People living with a mental health condition must have their psychosocial needs met regardless of whether they are eligible for the NDIS or not.

CMHA agrees with the point made by Pat McGorry that the significant challenge has been making a disability model does not fit with mental illness. CMHA believes that a rehabilitative focus can be part of the NDIS, not just for mental health but all disability. The NDIS is about people with persistent disability have contributing lives and incorporating recovery and rehabilitation models in the NDIS is possible. The Federal Government's current approach is to withdraw funding from community mental health services, such as PIR and PHaMHS, and move that to the NDIS. Many of those people who were getting support through that federal funding will not be eligible for the NDIS. State and territory governments have responded in different ways with some jurisdictions withdrawing significant funding from community mental health services.

The biggest issue for CMHA is the people living with a mental illness who will not be eligible for the NDIS and who provides them with a service. This is the responsibility of both the federal and state and territory governments. States and territories to continue to run a well-funded mental health service system which sits alongside the NDIS. The federal government to continue to fund a service that sits outside the NDIS and assists people who aren't in the NDIS to have the range of services they need coordinated. The community managed mental health sector has already made significant shifts in terms of workforce and service delivery to transition to the NDIS. We need to address the problems that are occurring for mental health in the NDIS including developing quality assurance processes specifically tailored for psychosocial support services as a part of the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework; conducting nationally led regional Communities of Practice to support NDIS transition; and developing options for funding services for people living with a mental illness who are ineligible for the NDIS and currently access Federally funded programs.

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.

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 or click [here](#) for more information.

Mental illness rates rise in young people: Mission Australia and Black Dog Institute

[Click here](#) for more information

Five Year Mental Health Youth Report (new) Mission Australia, April 2017

Mission Australia is proud to collaborate with the Black Dog Institute on this year's Youth Mental Health Report. The report presents five years of mental health data collected from young people across Australia with important insights into their levels of psychological distress, their concerns and the people and places they go to for help. [Click here](#) for more information.

Events, Conferences & Training

Housing, Homelessness and Mental Health Workshops held on 5 April 2017 Darwin.

This initiative involved 8 workshops during March – April 2017 (one in each capital city) aimed to get jurisdictional input to better understand the national picture of housing, homeless and mental health in order to develop policy and research directions by injecting 'housing affordability and supply' into the national mental health debate. View summary report [here](#)

NDIS Provider Information Sharing Session on 28th April in Katherine.

For more information click [here](#)

What Works in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention?

Professor Pat Dudgeon - Seminar on 4th May at the Centre for Remote Health. For more information click [here](#)

Social and Emotional Wellbeing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples: Indigenous leadership and how it is the key to optimal outcomes. Prof Pat Dudgeon

Workshop on Friday 5th May at the Centre for Remote Health. For more information click [here](#)

NDIS information session for consumers, carers, service providers on the 11th May in Alice Springs. For more information click [here](#)

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.

Western Australian Mental Health Conference & Awards 2017.

'*Integrated Lives*'. For more information click [here](#).

National Suicide Prevention Conference 2017.

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

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](#)

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](#)

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](#)

Danila Dilba Health Service is an Aboriginal community controlled organisation that provides comprehensive, high quality primary health care and community services to Biluru people and Yilli Rreung region. For current positions vacant click [here](#)

Relationships Australia Northern Territory has a position for a qualified and experienced Counsellor, preferably with experience or training in mental health. For more information 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](#)

Sponsors

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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