

**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.

The Coalition is pleased to announce the completion of the final round table forum of the Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Service Review. Facilitated in partnership in with Northern Territory Primary Health Network, these round tables have engaged service, providers, carers and people living with mental illness across the Northern Territory. The Coalition wishes to thank everyone who came to the consultations, completed the survey and the service profiles. The Coalition have given a commitment to report back

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to round table participants, so please be patient as our final report will be completed by the end of August.

## NDIS News

### **NDIS Information Session Schedule for May - September 2017**

For more information on sessions in Alice Springs, Darwin and Katherine [Click here](#)

**NDIS letter outlines the outcome of the FY2017-18 pricing review and the decision to undertake an Independent Pricing Review.** Click [here](#) to read the letter.

### **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](#).

### **Can I access the NDIS?**

You can access the NDIS depending on your location, age, residency and disability. You can also apply to enter the NDIS six months prior to the Scheme rolling out in your area.

[Find out when the NDIS is coming to your area](#) and what you can do to prepare.

### **NDIS Essential Briefing program released.**

The preliminary program for NDIS's flagship event 'NDIS Essential Briefing' has been released, with timely updates on strategy, pricing, workforce and more. [Read more](#)

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

On 14 June 2017 the Productivity Commission released its position paper on its study into NDIS costs. The paper sets out the Commission's draft findings, recommendations and information requests. In the document, [click here](#), Mental Health Australia has selected the information requests which it believes will be best served by direct feedback to the Commission from providers of psychosocial services. Extracts of the Commission's discussion of the issues are included to support your understanding of the Commission's direction – but you may wish to read the full discussion. Mental Health Australia is providing this document to its stakeholders to assist and encourage providers of psychosocial services to respond directly to the Productivity Commission. The full position paper, and details of how to respond, are available at [www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/ndis-costs/position](http://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/ndis-costs/position)

The final report is to be delivered in September 2017. More information on the review can be found [here](#).

The Commission is seeking submissions by Wednesday, 12 July 2017.

### **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 has released its paper 'How to get the NDIS on track'** which makes strong recommendations on the necessary way forward for the NDIS. [Click here](#)

#### **New NDIS Code of Conduct**

The Code will come into effect once the NDIS is at full-scheme. Your ideas and feedback on the content of the Code of Conduct is welcomed. Click [here](#) for the Discussion Paper, is also available in an Easy English version, a quick survey and/or upload a submission if you have more detailed feedback to contribute to the discussion.

#### **Why is every NDIS plan different?**

NDIS plans are based on each participant's unique support needs, goals, daily activities and any other mainstream supports they might receive. This is a part of the NDIS' commitment to being a person-centred approach to disability care. [Check out the NDIS website for examples of services and support](#) that can be accessed through an NDIS plan.

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## **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 member and a board member of the CMHA. CMHA continues to lobby and advocate on behalf of the community mental health sector through:

Meetings with MPs and or their Advisers:

- Mike Kelly, Federal Member for Eden-Monaro and Co-Chair Parliamentary Friends for Suicide Prevention.
- Australian Human Rights Commission ACT Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT) Round table.
- WA Mental Health Association conference – 13-14 July

Amanda Bresnan, Executive Officer, CMHA attended the Tennant Creek Round table workshop and heard first hand the issues around the NDIS.

MHACA in Alice Springs hosted a morning tea for Amanda to give an overview of the work of the CMHA, it was well received.

Policy Documents – position statements include:

- Workforce – A first draft of the position statement was sent to the states and territory members for input with a final clearance from the Community Mental Health Australia (CMHA) Board.
- International Initiative for Mental Health Leadership (IIMHL) position statement on the psychosocial sector – the CMHA is currently drafting a position statement.

### **CMHA Releases Position Statement on the NDIS and Psychosocial Disability**

View the position statement [here](#)

CMHA is soon to launch their website which will have all the submissions and position statements.

**Mental Health Coordinating Council (MHCC) Online Resource: 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.

People can now register their interest in the website [here](#). With an expected launch at the end of June. For information and downloads inclusive of posters for organisations to utilise please [click here](#). 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)

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## **Other**

### **Mental Health needs of young Australian men falling through the cracks.**

Orygen, the National Centre for Excellence in Youth Mental Health has released a major report revealing that young men are continuing to fall through the cracks of our mental health system. Click [here](#) for more information.

### **Mental Health outlook poorer for rural and remote Australians - RFDS**

Congratulations to Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) on the release of their report - [Mental Health in Remote and Rural Communities](#)

### **Kimberley Indigenous suicide inquest told kids using alcohol to escape 'something horrific' .**

*Irena Ceranic, ABC News, Tuesday June 27, 2017.* Setting a floor price on wine and reducing the number of liquor stores in the Kimberley could help curb alcohol abuse in Indigenous communities, an inquest has heard. [Read more](#)

### **The United Nations Human Rights Council Special Report into highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.**

This UN Special Report lays out some very clear challenges to member states (including Australia), so I'll let it speak for itself rather than interpret too much. *Frank Quinlan CEO Mental Health Australia*  
Click [here](#) to view the report.

### **OPCAT in Australia Consultation Paper.**

The Australian Human Rights Commission has released the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT) Consultation paper. Submissions will be accepted up until the 21 July 2017. Click [here](#) to view the paper.

### **Australia's First Social Impact Bond for People Living with Mental Illness.**

In an Australian first, social impact bonds will be used to improve the lives of people living with a mental illness. For more information click [here](#)

### **Resources for Mental Health Carers**

Both Tandem (the peak body representing mental health carers in Victoria) and the Mental Health Carers NSW (MHCN) have released resources to assist carers and their loved ones in the NDIS planning process: Tandem have released a [tip sheet around the first plan conversation](#) for mental health carers, families and friends, answering common questions and providing suggestions on how to prepare for and best support your loved one during the planning process.

MHCN have also released a '[NDIS Carer Statement Template](#)', developed as a tool to assist consumers, families and carers to understand the terminology used in the NDIS and to aid carers and consumers in identifying their care and support needs so that they are able to most effectively communicate their needs to the NDIS.

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## **Events, Conferences & Training**

**EASA Training Calendar** June - November 2017. [For more information and to enrol click here](#)

**A Chance for Change Masquerade Ball 2017.**

This ball is being organised by The "A Chance For Change" N.T Ambassadors. ACFC is a registered, non for profit charity with a focus on the prevention of depression, anxiety and suicide in men. The ACFC masquerade ball is a chance for the guys and girls in Darwin and surrounds to dress up, do something a little different and support a great cause. For more information or to register click [here](#)

**Western Australian Mental Health Conference & Awards 2017.** 'Integrated Lives'. For more information click [here](#).

**Understanding Anger in Veterans: Tips and Strategies to Support Veterans Struggling with Anger.**

The Mental Health Professional's Network, on behalf of the Department of Veterans' Affairs is producing a free webinar series to support practitioners to better respond to the mental health needs of veterans.

[Registrations are now open](#) for the fifth webinar, Understanding Anger in Veterans: Tips and Strategies to Support Veterans Struggling with Anger. Tuesday 11 July 2017 - 7.15 - 8:30 pm AEST

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health First Aid Training for Carers.**

July 13/14. Carers NT is offering the 2 day Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health First Aid Training at a low cost of \$20 per person (exclusively to registered Carers). This course has been culturally adapted for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and is taught by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Instructors. Register by phone 1800 242 636

**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. Mental health awareness and well-being strategies remain urgent public concerns. The Conference will focus on the range of complex mental issues affecting the elderly including depression, dementia and anxiety. It will also explore the mental health issues of young Australians and how we can influence, educate and promote change. For more information and to register click [here](#)

**NTCOSS Sector Day and Conference**

NTCOSS is excited to announce its 2017 Sector Day and Conference, 25 – 27 September at the Darwin Convention Centre. Registrations are NOW OPEN with a range of tickets available for different days – attend one or all! Register [here](#)

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

Community Mental Health Australia (CMHA) invites you to the National NDIS Mental Health Conference - 16 - 17 November 2017 in Sydney, Registrations are now open, be quick to catch the early bird

registrations. The conference is an opportunity for the Community Mental Health sector to work together to make the most of the NDIS. The conference theme 'towards a better life', there will be a focus on the transformational potential of the NDIS for people living with a psychosocial disability. To register click [here](#).

#### **National NDIS Mental Health Conference 2017 - Scholarship Program**

Scholarship applications are now open for people with lived experience of a mental health condition or family or carers of someone with lived experience of a mental health condition to attend this major national conference. [Read more about the eligibility criteria and submit your application online](#)  
Scholarship applications close 20 July 2017.

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## **Employment**

**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. There are several positions [click here](#)

**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. 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 [click here](#)

We are looking for a Mental Health Fieldworker in Darwin and were hoping you would be kind enough to please share the following position among your networks?

**GROW - Northern Territory** is looking for a mental health fieldworker, the position is part time. The classifications is Community Development, Mental Health & Counselling. For more information [click here](#)

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## **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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