

**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 BUDGET & FEDERAL BUDGET**

### **What does this mean for mental health?**

**Northern Territory Budget:**

*Mental Health:*

The 2017-2018 Budget supports community health centres, non-government organisations and

Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health organisations to develop local strategies to improve mental health literacy in communities, and to support early identification and referral for support through:

- ? \$3 million over four years to trial a new partnership between the Territory government and non-government organisations to provide support services to up to 200 people with a mental illness who live in public housing in Darwin and Palmerston: and
- ? \$0.8 million over four years to offer 10 postgraduate scholarships per year for registered nurses to specialise in mental health nursing. 10 scholarships per year for enrolled mental health nursing students and provide opportunities for mental health specialisation for Aboriginal health practitioners and Aboriginal community workers to improve cultural competency.

*Disability:*

The 2017-18 Budget also provides \$8 million for early intervention and support to tackle challenging behaviours and support students with additional needs and mental health issues.

**Federal Budget:**

Mental health has become a priority in the federal government's health agenda with advocacy bodies across the country welcoming the announcement with a sigh of relief. The Budget identified \$173 million to be invested in Australia's mental health, including "\$80 million to assist people with severe mental illness resulting in psychosocial disability who are not eligible for the NDIS." The transferring of funding from Federal mental health programs Partners in Recovery, Day to Day Living, Personal Helpers and Mentors and Mental Health Respite for Carers has seen a significant gap created for community based services. Many of the people who currently receive crucial support from these services will not be eligible for the NDIS. The state and territory peaks estimate this to be anywhere between 20-40% of people currently receiving support. For more information click here

The sector has been calling on the Federal Government to take responsibility for these people, as you cannot remove a program you have been funding for over a decade and then have nowhere for these people to go.

Mental Health Australia also welcomed other measures in the Budget. These include:

- ? Mental health treatment for current and former members of the Australian Defence Force – expanded access - \$33.5 million
- ? Improving telehealth for psychological services in regional areas - \$9.1 million
- ? Suicide prevention and support programs in hotspots (locations where suicide repeatedly occurs) and funding for small infrastructure projects - \$11.1 million
- ? Support for mental health research - \$15 million

Peak bodies said it was also significant that Australians suffering from eating disorders and post-natal depression had been recognised as having a mental illness and would be included in \$80 million for

community psychosocial services.

**Welfare:**

The most concerning element of the Budget relates to welfare measures, particularly to measures proposed around increased activity requirements, demerit points and a proposed trial to drug test welfare recipients. People with mental illness are likely to be impacted by these proposals and are over represented in these groups. Co-morbid drug and alcohol use for people with a mental illness is a common occurrence, and the episodic nature of mental illness means people's ability to work is also episodic. Applying an approach to help people with mental health and drug alcohol issues to recover and be a part of their community works, while measures that punish people do not.

**Links to interesting comments regarding the Budget on Mental Health**

Psychiatric Disability Services (VICSERV) has provided statements on both the State and Federal Budget announcements, calling for more clarification around the proposed funding and raising concerns that the funding won't be enough to address the looming gap in Victoria's mental health service system. Click [here](#)

Community Mental Health Australia also provided an analysis of the Federal Budget, which can be found [here](#).

## **NDIS News**

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

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

**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

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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](#)  
**NDS Report - 'How to get the NDIS On Track'**

National Disability Services has released a report titled '[How to Get the NDIS on Track](#)' outlining potential pitfalls for the Scheme and proposing practical recommendations to reduce risk and improve implementation. The paper suggests that the current reforms are placing significant pressures on service providers, commenting on research by Curtin University which found that many service providers lack the capacity to invest in major growth and two thirds report that they are worried about their capacity to provide services under the current NDIS prices.

NDIA released the NDIS Quarterly COAG Disability Reform Council Report, covering the period from 1 January to 31 March 2017. It shows the total number of people who had received support from the NDIS at the end of the quarter was 78,006, including 2439 children referred through the NDIS Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI) approach. To view the report click [here](#)

#### [How to get the NDIS on track - NDS paper released](#)

NDS has released its paper 'How to get the NDIS on track' which makes strong recommendations on the necessary way forward for the NDIS.

#### [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, which 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.

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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 and a board member of the CMHA.

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

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Updates:

#### Mental Health Advisory Panel

On 24 March Minister Greg Hunt announced the formation of a Mental Health Advisory Panel to be co-chaired by Dr Peggy Brown and Frank Quinlan. Community Mental Health Australia, has been advised that the Executive Director, Amanda Bresnan has been appointed to the Advisory Panel.

#### Federal Budget 2017-18

Community Mental Health Australia attended the Health Budget Lock-up on 9 May in Canberra on an invitation from ACOSS – the People Budget (8 May); Sector Budget Caucus (9 May); ACOSS post-budget teleconference (9 May); and ACOSS sector press conference (10 May).

#### Meetings

Several meetings are ongoing with MP and their Advisors raising several key issues from the Community Mental Health Sector, such as;

- ? The Federal Pre-Budget Submission 2017-18
- ? Transferring of Federal funded mental health programs such as – PIR, PHaMs, D2DL and Mental Health Carer respite – to the NDIS concerns of ineligibility.
- ? The NDIS planning process; and the problems occurring with overall implementation; and the need for the NDIS legislation to be reviewed.
- ? The impact of the NDIS pricing structure on the community-managed mental health workforce.

#### **Coming soon:**

**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 at [www.reimagine.today](http://www.reimagine.today) to be launched 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

**Health doesn't know coverage of \$80m mental illness support**, *Rick Morton, The Australian, Wednesday May 31, 2017*. Federal officials admit they have no way of knowing how many people with severe mental illness will be supported by a last-minute funding intervention to plug an emerging gap between old community support and the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Health Department deputy secretary Mark Cormack told a Senate estimates hearing yesterday it was "hard to say how many people" the four-year, \$80 million funding boost would support around the edges of the NDIS because the nature of mental illness was too unpredictable. Read more [here](#)

**\$47 million boost to front-line services for suicide prevention** *Media Release 28 May 2017*

The Turnbull Government will provide a \$47 million boost to front-line services for suicide prevention and directly address a growing community need. Services will be available right across Australia and will include training for at risk families and support groups, face-to-face support for individuals in need, training for emergency response services and support for communities experiencing specific issues. Read the media release [here](#)

**Australian men aged over 85 have the highest rate of suicide, ABS data shows** *Ky Chow, ABC News, Tuesday May 30, 2017*. Australian men aged over 85 have the highest suicide rate in Australia, and more than double that of teenagers. Click [here](#) for more information

**Measurement Strategy for Connecting Care to Recovery 2016-2021**

A plan for Queensland's State-funded Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs.  
For more information click [here](#)

**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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**Facebook's policy to allow the live broadcast of self-harm** on its platform has attracted concern among mental health advocates. Click [here](#) for more information. *Jake Sturmer ABC 22 May 2017*

**Homelessness Reflects Complex Life Circumstances and Poor Health – Study**

High levels of psychological distress, post-traumatic stress disorder, chronic physical conditions, and poor social supports are common characteristics of those experiencing chronic homelessness, according to new not-for-profit research. Click [here](#)

**NT PHN has a new organisational structure**

Northern Territory PHN (NT PHN) has transitioned to a new [organisational structure](#) to strengthen our capacity, build partnerships and support the primary health care system. With a strong and effective structure, NT PHN can achieve commissioning excellence and workforce outcomes to support people in the Northern Territory to enjoy their best health and wellbeing. We invite you to [explore NT PHN's organisational structure](#) and to call 08 8982 1000 if you are unsure who to contact for specific projects and requests.

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## Events, Conferences & Training

**Darwin Mental Health Network Meeting**

An Overview to the NDIS for Psycho-Social Clients. Hosted by Carers NT on 9th June 2017. Click [here](#) for more information.

**EASA Training Calendar June - November 2017**

[For more information and to enrol click here](#)

**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

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Recovery, Preventing Relapse and the latest Policy Initiatives. The conference is calling for abstracts. for more information [click here](#)

**Australian Counselling Association National Conference** 16-17 September 2017.

Registrations are open for the 'TOWARDS 2020 AND BEYOND: Embracing Technology and Working with Young People' ACA National Conference. The National Conference will explore the challenges new technology brings to the counselling industry and mental health services as a whole; in particular how each generation embraces (or not) technology in their own diverse way. Click [here](#) to register or learn more.

**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. The Conference is an opportunity for the Mental Health sector to work together to make the most of this new scheme. With 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.

Call for Content by 23 June 2017. Click [here](#) or to learn more. To register click [here](#).

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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. Anglicare has 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. 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](#)

**Katherine West Health Board** is currently seeking a Psychologist to join their team. For more information 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](#)

**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](#)

#### **The Way Back Support Service NT**

FCD Health has two Support Coordinator positions available to deliver The Way Back Support Service in the Northern Territory. The Way Back Support Service NT is funded by beyondblue and NT Dept. of Health. For more information click [here](#) or to view job description 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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