



2nd February 2016

Northern Territory Mental Health Coalition's response to the Housing Strategy Consultation Draft.

The Northern Territory Mental Health Coalition (NTMHC or Coalition), is the peak body for the community mental health sector in the Northern Territory.

The Coalition welcomes the report and its' focus on the entire housing continuum and the acknowledgment that some people have complex housing /accommodation needs.

The Coalition and its members are particularly interested in the housing needs of people living with mental health challenges and those with complex issues that impact negatively on their long term accommodation.

The Coalition applauds the NT Government in their effort to work towards a housing system that is more responsive and minimises any negative impact on the individual and community, for example; homelessness and badly maintained housing which have a negative impact on people's mental health and wellbeing.

The Coalition member organisations' have experience and knowledge of the accommodation needs of people with mental health issues. Our members frequently see the deleterious impacts that a lack of access to housing, housing in poor condition and a lack of effective support for tenants can have on mental health, family health and participation in the community, including employment.

The NT Mental Health Coalition as the peak body in the NT also supports the NT Shelter's submission and feedback to the Housing Strategy Consultation Draft.

The Coalition recommends that the Department of Housing continue to work with NT Shelter, who on behalf of the Coalition's membership will highlight the needs of people living with mental illness in our communities. We also urge the Department of Housing to link with the Mental Health Directorate within the Department of Health as housing policy is developed.

If you require any further information please contact the Vanessa Harris, Executive Officer on 8948 2246.

Yours sincerely

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Northern Territory Mental Health Coalition