



Annual Report

14/15

**Mental Health
Australia**

Mental Health Australia Ltd



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Like our work? Support Mental Health Australia today

Mental Health Australia, our members and stakeholders share a vision of a mentally healthy community where all people are treated with dignity and respect. Your support is crucial for Mental Health Australia to continue to be an effective advocate for change.

You can support our work in the following ways:

Become a member – organisations can become a member and join our national network of mental health sector organisations advocating for reform. Members play a vital role in developing Mental Health Australia's policy positions and ensuring the diversity of the sector is represented at the highest levels. Members also receive a range of benefits including sector-specific media and policy updates, access to face to face advocacy opportunities and attendance at networking events. Find out how to become a member on our website.

Become a Friend of Mental Health Australia – As an individual you too can add your voice to our work. Becoming a Friend of Mental Health Australia will keep you in the loop with important policy and sector updates and opportunities to take action. Visit our website to find out how you can sign up today.

Make a donation – all donations to Mental Health Australia are tax deductible and your funds go directly to our policy and advocacy work. Make a donation on our website.

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From the
Chair & CEO

1



1. From the Chair & CEO

This past financial reporting period saw significant activity in the mental health space, as we move steadily towards what we hope will be real and meaningful reform.

Mental Health Australia has been at the forefront of advocating for that reform, with a strong policy platform geared towards the realisation of our vision for mentally healthy people and mentally healthy communities.

New name and brand

This was the first full year operating under our new name and brand. The staff and executive of the new look Mental Health Australia strengthened their efforts in 2014–15 to bring the sector together, to help influence and shape the trajectory of systemic change for our national mental health system. The response to our new look has been positive and we have embraced the growing sense of authority and clarity it has afforded us.

Our true strength, however, lies in our membership, and we continue to strive to ensure their voice, and the voice of consumers and carers, continues to be heard by those in high office. Our role in facilitating and coordinating that voice has kept us extremely busy throughout the financial year.

This brand change coincided with our move to a company limited by guarantee, as voted by our members. This change has also been smooth and well received.

National Mental Health Commission Review

A significant focus has been on responding to the National Mental Health Commission's (NMHC) Review of Mental Health Programmes and Services. This Review, released in April, represents the foundation for the roll out of a new mental health system. Our four submissions to this Review, each based on feedback and input from



the members, sits alongside our *7 Point Plan for Action on Mental Health* and *Blueprint for Action on Mental Health*. This policy work is heavily reflected in the NMHC Review and we hope will inform the future state of mental health.

Advocacy activity

In addition, our policy area continues to respond and reflect the view of our members in areas such as welfare reform, law reform, activity based funding and the Federation White Paper process. This, and the huge body of work being undertaken on the highly complex National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), has kept us front and centre on government matters affecting our sector.

Our advocacy has also manifested in some heartening shows of solidarity during this period.

A significant issue facing the sector is financial viability and sustainability. With much on hold while reform design is taking place, sector funding has been a source of serious concern to our members. We undertook a survey of members to ascertain their vulnerability to this financial instability at the end of 2014. The resulting media and advocacy activity, alongside the work of many others in the sector, saw a \$300 million commitment from the Australian Government; the first piece of a multilayered advocacy puzzle.



This work was further complemented by a joint open letter to the Prime Minister, the Hon Tony Abbott MP, signed by over 70 organisations, representing a cross section of organisations from the mental health sector and beyond.

Another piece of that puzzle was the inaugural Mental Health Parliamentary Advocacy Day in February. During this watershed event for Mental Health Australia, 90 delegates from our sector met with 47 members of parliament on a single day. The collective impact of this combined voice was strong, with consistent key messages delivered across political parties and ideologies.

Only Mental Health Australia has the breadth of membership required to achieve this kind of impactful targeted messaging on mental health, and it is something of which we are very proud.

Mental health consumer and carer representation

We continued our work during 2014–15 to further facilitate and help grow the consumer and carer movement in Australia. Our work with the National Mental Health Leaders Program and the National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Forum (NMHCCF) and National Register of Mental Health Consumer and Carer Representatives has helped this vital arm of our sector provide its essential knowledge and expertise to everything we do.

This year also saw the wrapping up of the mental health consumer peak project due to a lack of

funding. It was a disappointing outcome for many, including us and the Consumer Reference Group (CRG) who worked so hard throughout the project. However, the project has delivered a comprehensive handover pack of key documents including a Constitution, corporate governance manual and operational policies which will be invaluable to the establishment of a consumer peak organisation in the future.

Public awareness and communications campaigns

Our communications campaigns, online platforms and media activity have gone from strength-to-strength this year, with significant growth in our social media followers and visits to our website. In addition, we ran another successful World Mental Health Day campaign with thousands of people from Australia and beyond making a personal pledge to look after their own mental health and wellbeing.

We had great success during the ABC's inaugural 'Mental As' campaign, securing a standalone TV show with comedian Felicity Ward, highlighting our World Mental Health Day campaign, as well as content across the broadcaster's programming throughout the week. This important week also included our annual Grace Groom Memorial Oration which saw a key note address from the Vice-Chief of the Australian Defence Force, Vice-Admiral Ray Griggs AO, CSC, RAN.

With much more to be done to further advocate for the systemic reform of the mental health system, including appropriate transition planning, we are blessed to have amazing staff and a dedicated Board. We want to take this opportunity to thank them all for their tireless work this financial year.

In addition, a special thanks to our members, on whom we rely to help drive our reform agenda across Australia. Together, we can help push for a mental health system that we can all be proud of; a system where everyone receives the timely help they need first time, every time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank Quinlan'.

Frank Quinlan
CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer Westacott'.

Jennifer Westacott
Chair



Strategic Focus Area 1 – Co-designing

2



2. Strategic Focus Area 1 – Co-designing

To co-design and model the best mental health system in the world in conjunction with consumers and carers, members, government and other stakeholders.

Highlights 2014–15

- Development of the 7 Point Plan for Action on Mental Health
- Launch of the Blueprint for Action on Mental Health
- Mental Health Parliamentary Advocacy Day
- Open Letter to the Prime Minister signed by more than 70 mental health organisations calling for urgent action to ensure continuity of services and programs for Australians living with mental illness, and those who care for them
- Broad consultation to develop responses to the NMHC Review of Mental Health Programmes and Services

2014–15 was a crucial time for Australia's mental health sector. During the year:

- the NMHC finalised its Review of Mental Health Programmes and Services, which the Minister for Health subsequently released and announced the formation of a new Expert Reference Group and targeted stakeholder consultations to inform the Government's response to the Review
- negotiations commenced between state/territory and Commonwealth governments on the *Fifth National Mental Health Plan* and new bilateral agreements to guide the transition of existing programs (including mental health programs) into the NDIS.

Mental health reform was on hold throughout the year while the Commonwealth Government awaited the findings of the NMHC Review. During that time, the Government made no significant policy or funding announcements on mental health. In June 2015 contracts with NGO providers for Commonwealth funded mental health programs were extended for six or 12 months, with no funding commitments made beyond that term – repeating similar last-minute contract extensions 12 months prior. These

successive and short-term funding extensions created unprecedented and ongoing uncertainty for the mental health workforce and the people who use these programs.

The year also saw several other important processes in train with major implications for mental health reform. These include:

- the Reform of the Federation White Paper process, including the release of an issues paper and a discussion paper on reform options for the health system
- intergovernmental negotiations regarding key aspects of the NDIS, such as the Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) initiative and the division of responsibilities between the NDIS and other service systems
- the announcement of reviews of primary health care and the Medicare Benefits Schedule

Throughout the year, Mental Health Australia worked to ensure these processes align, in order to avoid reinforcing the fragmentation and discoordination the NMHC identified as being at the core of system failure.

A world leading mental health system

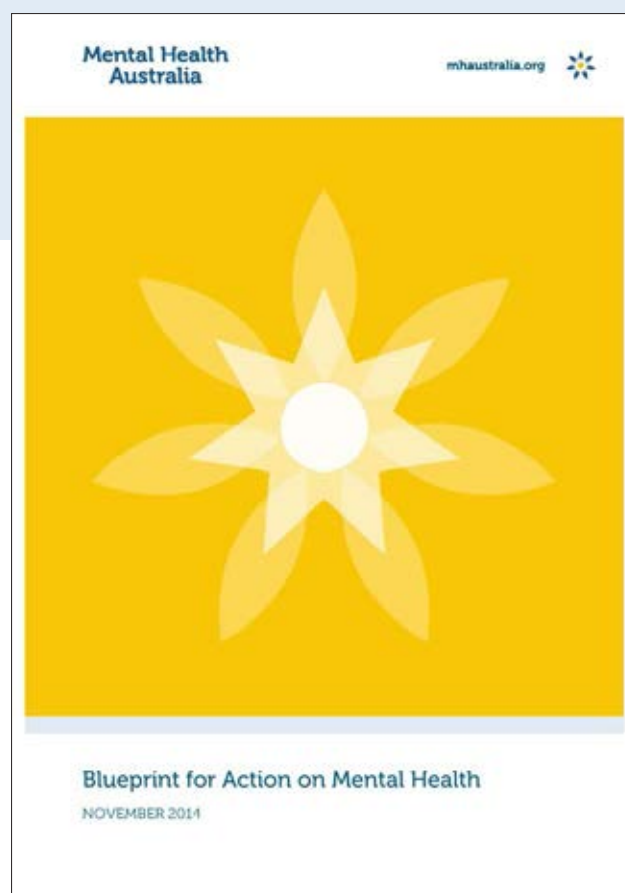
The announcement of the NMHC Review in late 2013 provided an opportunity for the sector to come together and identify common barriers and structural factors which continue to impede reform.

Mental Health Australia provided regular input to the NMHC throughout the Review process, including four submissions on behalf of members between February and November 2014. To inform this work, Mental Health Australia consulted widely with members, consumers and carers, and other stakeholders to identify priorities for mental health reform.

The outcome of this consultation was Mental Health Australia's fourth and final submission, the *Blueprint for Action on Mental Health*. The *Blueprint* was released in November 2014 and lays out clear directions for Government reform by presenting practical recommendations framed around a *7 Point Plan for Action on Mental Health* canvassing the following major areas of action:

1. Agree on what we want to achieve
2. Be clear on who is responsible for what
3. Increase consumer and carer participation and choice
4. Match services to need
5. Get the incentives right to drive better outcomes
6. Invest at the right time to achieve the greatest benefit
7. Keep governments and services accountable

Through the *Blueprint*, Mental Health Australia made substantial progress in Strategic Focus Area 1 – Co-Designing. The *Blueprint* and its recommendations are strongly aligned with our Strategic Plan focus on identifying opportunities to tackle structural and systemic issues, and



articulating a clear plan for reducing negative outcomes for consumers and carers.

The *Blueprint* has been widely acknowledged and supported by the mental health sector, and continues to provide a consolidated reference point for ongoing and future advocacy around the NMHC Review, the 2015-16 Federal Budget, the Reform of the Federation White Paper process and beyond. It will remain the standard against which future actions to progress mental health reform will be judged.

Sector-wide funding uncertainty

In conjunction with the release of the *Blueprint*, Mental Health Australia conducted a survey of members in November 2014 to ascertain the impact funding uncertainty was having on the sector. The survey results formed the basis of an extensive advocacy program aimed at securing longer-term funding commitments from the Australian Government for existing mental health programs.



Mental Health Parliamentary Advocacy Day

Mental Health Australia held its first Mental Health Parliamentary Advocacy Day in February 2015. Mental Health Australia members were placed in delegations and had the opportunity to meet with two or three MPs and Senators. Ninety delegates met with 47 politicians from across the political spectrum (including 20 Liberals, three Nationals, 18 ALP, two Greens, one Palmer United Party and three Independents), with delegates presenting a unified voice and three key messages to the Federal Members and Senators.

Delegates presented a joint sector message to politicians with the following three key points:

1. A resolution to the uncertainty of funding for mental health services whose current contracts end 30 June 2015
2. The immediate release of the NMHC Review of Mental Health Programmes and Services
3. Commitment to a ten year reform plan for the mental health system

The event included a press conference with all delegates and an online campaign. Feedback received was extremely positive with members and politicians alike indicating they appreciated the opportunity to discuss mental health issues face to face. It is highly likely that similar Mental Health Parliamentary Advocacy Days will be held in future.

Consumer and carer participation and leadership

National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Forum

The NMHCCF is a united, independent and national voice of consumers and carers committed to reforming mental health in Australia. It is currently auspiced by Mental Health Australia.

Through its membership, the NMHCCF gives mental health consumers and carers the opportunity to meet, form partnerships and be involved in the development and implementation of mental health reform.

NMHCCF members represent mental health consumers and carers on a large number of national bodies, such as government committees and advisory groups, professional bodies and other consultative forums and events. Members use their lived experience, understanding of the mental health system and communication skills to advocate and promote the issues and concerns of Australians living with mental illness and those who care for them.

Membership of the NMHCCF is comprised of one consumer representative and one carer representative from each Australian state and territory and representatives from some population groups and national consumer and carer organisations.

The NMHCCF met four times in 2014–15. Throughout the year they contributed to the following consultations:

- Interim Report by the Reference Group on Welfare Reform (joint submission with Mental Health Australia)
- Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs Inquiry into the Social Services Legislation Bill 2015
- People with Disability and Mental Illness Joint NGO Submission to Australia's 2nd Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and fact sheet on mental health
- Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) 'Mental As' campaign for 2014–15.

The NMHCCF also provided formal feedback on the following reports, issues and policies:

- Fiona Stanley Hospital (WA) No uniforms policy
- The removal of exhibitions at the Royal Agricultural Show in Western Australia that stigmatise people with mental health issues
- Australasian Health Infrastructure Alliance (AHIA) Australasian Health Facility Guidelines for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Inpatient Units
- Carers Australia and Mental Health Australia's principles and guidelines for mental health carer participation in the NDIS.

The NMHCCF also called for the views of people with lived experience of mental illness and those who care for them to be included in the proposed Government working groups following the release of the NMHC Review.

The NMHCCF Business Plan and Strategy for 2015–2017 was endorsed in March 2015. The NMHCCF Strategy identifies six approaches, each with core activities and expected outcomes. These six approaches include collaboration, promotion, capacity, advocacy, practices and knowledge.

The NMHCCF launched their new website in April 2015, www.nmhccf.org.au. The redesigned site contains a range of information including advocacy briefs, submissions, publications and useful links for consumers and carers.

National Register of Mental Health Consumer and Carer Representatives

The National Register is made up of 60 mental health consumer and carer representatives from around Australia. These consumer and carer representatives are available to sit on national committees, boards, planning groups and participate in national forums.

During 2014–15 the consumer and carer selection panel (NMHCCF Co-Chairs and the consumer and carer representatives on the Mental Health Australia Board) selected representatives from the NMHCCF and National Register for 24 consumer and 27 carer representative positions for the following opportunities:

- ABC 'Mental As' Campaign 2014 – focus group
- Australian College of Mental Health Nurses – expert reference group
- Mental Health Coordinating Council – Peer Work Champions selection panel
- National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) – Mental Health Sector Reference Group
- Suicide Prevention Australia Lived Experience Symposium – participation
- The Mental Health Services Conference 2014 (TheMHS) – participation
- Mental Health Australia Grace Groom Memorial Oration 2014 – attendance
- Mental Health Australia Members Policy Forum 2014 – participation
- Integrating Mental Health into the NDIS Conference – participation
- Mental Health Australia – NDIS capacity building workshop – participation

- Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) – presentations
- NDIA NDIS Operational Access Review – workshops
- Australian Doctors Education – planning group
- Australian Doctors Education – presentations
- RACGP – teleconference interviews
- 10th National Seclusion and Restraint Reduction Forum – participation
- Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care – roundtable discussions
- Australian Electoral Commission – Disability Advisory Committee
- Mental Health Australia Members Policy Forum and Parliamentary Advocacy Day 2015 – participation
- The Independent Hospital Pricing Authority (IHPA) Activity Based Funding Conference – participation
- ABC 'Mental As' Campaign 2015 – meeting

Annual National Register and NMHCCF Issues Forum/Workshop

The annual National Register and NMHCCF workshop was held in May 2015 and was attended by 50 consumers and carers. The workshop included information on key national issues for mental health advocates, peer masterclasses and sessions with invited keynote speakers. Participants had opportunities to engage with speakers from across the mental health and disability sectors on issues including:

- disability discrimination
- the current national mental health landscape
- suicide prevention
- advocacy campaigns and resources.

National Mental Health Leaders Program

This program was an initiative of Mental Health Australia and the NMHC and was also supported by the NMHCCF. Ex-Commissioner, Janet Meagher AM and ex-CEO of the NMHC, Robyn Kruk AM co-sponsored the leadership program and undertook an overarching mentoring role.

The program aimed to support further development of existing mental health consumer and carer leaders and advocates and find and develop the next generation of leaders.

The program focused on:

- building the skills and capacity of participants and developing thriving mental health leaders
- using innovative ways to challenge participants
- learning from and making links with other leaders and leadership initiatives within mental health and in other sectors
- engaging with national mental health consumer and carer groups and organisations (NMHCCF, National Register, consumer and carer groups) and other key mental health stakeholders.

The eleven program participants attended two training workshops in 2014–15. Workshops provided participants with opportunities for training, mentoring and networking, both within the group and with leaders from the mental health, health and business sectors.

The leaders group also engaged in development activities throughout the Program, including individual leadership development plans, mentoring, communications and when opportunities arose, national-level meetings and networking events.

The leaders' final workshop and graduation was held in February 2015. This session allowed for discussion of participants' leadership journeys and provided time for participants to meet with four National Mental Health Commissioners and the Mental Health Australia CEO.

Strategic Focus Area 2 – Monitoring

3



3. Strategic Focus Area 2 – Monitoring

To monitor and evaluate the performance of mental health systems and the progress of national reform, including the interface between the mental health system and other services and programs.

Highlights 2014–15

- The *Blueprint for Action on Mental Health* was submitted to the NMHC Review and provided to the Commonwealth Treasurer
- Mental Health Australia and the NMHCCF provided a joint submission to the Review of Australia's Welfare System
- Following Mental Health Australia's advocacy, mental health issues were given prominent attention in the Health Issues Paper released through the Federation White Paper process
- CEO Frank Quinlan presented at the Future of Welfare Forum
- Eleven high quality policy submissions were released during 2014–15

Blueprint for Action on Mental Health

As noted above, Mental Health Australia provided regular input to the NMHC throughout its Review process. The fourth and final submission, the *Blueprint for Action on Mental Health*, was also provided to the Commonwealth Treasurer as Mental Health Australia's submission to the 2015 Federal Budget.

While the Budget did not contain many mental health measures, Mental Health Australia welcomed the new 'actuarial approach to welfare,' involving \$20.7 million over four years to develop a detailed annual actuarial valuation of the lifetime liability of Australia's welfare system, including identifying groups of people most at risk of welfare dependency and key points for intervention.

Submission to the Review of Australia's Welfare System

In August 2014, Mental Health Australia provided a submission to the McClure Review of Australia's Welfare System, jointly with the NMHCCF. In broad terms, the submission argued that a high functioning welfare system which meets the needs of people with mental illness and psychosocial disability would:

- be easy for people to access and navigate
- treat people fairly and in good faith at all times – providing similar benefits to individuals with similar needs
- provide welfare recipients with enough money to participate meaningfully in the community, economy and society – as well as meet the basic costs of living and looking for work
- focus on individual capabilities through strengths-based assessment and support, rather than focussing on the perceived deficits associated with a diagnosis of mental illness

- ensure people with mental health issues are appropriately identified within the system and referred to the right support services wherever possible
- wherever possible, avoid exacerbating known mental health conditions
- proactively support mental health consumers and carers to undertake education or training
- provide supported and predictable pathways to social participation and employment for all mental health consumers and carers who are able to work now or wish to work in the future.

The submission was informed by engagement with consumers and carers via survey to hear about experiences with the welfare system in Australia. The focus was on areas such as life on the Disability Support Pension and Carer Payment, experiences with Centrelink, and support needed to engage meaningfully in work.

In October 2014, the CEO presented at the Future of Welfare Forum and attended a meeting convened by ACOSS with (then) Minister for Social Services, The Hon Kevin Andrews MP and his advisors.

Federation White Paper Process

Mental Health Australia provided the *Blueprint for Action on Mental Health* to the Federation Reform Taskforce and outlined the implications for consumers, carers and service providers of the confusion regarding Commonwealth-State arrangements in mental health. Following discussions with the Taskforce, the Health Issues Paper, released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in December 2014, described some of the key challenges facing the sector from an intergovernmental perspective. Mental Health Australia staff also attended the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association's Think Tank on the Federation White Paper.

Australian Mental Health Care Classification Project

In August 2014, Mental Health Australia signed a contract with the Independent Hospitals Pricing Authority (IHPA) to work with the community mental health sector to improve understanding of activity based funding and its impacts. Mental Health Australia has also assisted IHPA to engage the sector in the development of the Australian Mental Health Care Classification (AMHCC).

Beyond this funded project, Mental Health Australia continued to be part of IHPA's Mental Health Working Group and Stakeholder Advisory Group. Mental Health Australia also provided advice to HealthConsult Pty Ltd as it carried out a costing study in late 2014, on IHPA's behalf, to inform the development of the AMHCC.

Participation on key advisory groups and committees

Mental Health Australia is a member of relevant national mental health advisory groups and committees, demonstrating its leadership role in representing the mental health sector on issues that are of interest to members and other stakeholders.

Examples include:

- Australian National Advisory Council on Alcohol and Drugs
- Human Services Strategy and Innovation Council
- Mental Health Information Strategies Standing Committee (MHISSC)
- Safety and Quality Partnerships Standing Committee (SQPSC) and various subcommittees

- Health Workforce Australia – Mental Health Advisory Group
- NDIA National Mental Health Sector Reference Group
- Independent Hospital Pricing Authority Stakeholder Advisory Group on Activity Based Funding
- Department of Human Services Council on Strategy and Innovation
- Mindframe Communications Advisory Group
- Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program Expert Reference Group
- Partners in Recovery Expert Advisory Group
- Partners in Recovery Capacity Building Project National Reference Group
- Suicide Prevention Australia's Working Group on planning for World Suicide Prevention Day
- Reducing Adverse Medication Events on Mental Health Services Working Party
- NewAccess Stakeholder Advisory Group

Policy Submissions

Mental Health Australia developed a number of high quality submissions throughout the 2014–15 financial year, covering a range of national mental health issues. All submissions can be downloaded from the [Mental Health Australia website](#).

May 2015

Submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs Inquiry into the Social Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2015

This submission into the Social Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 discussed concerns over the impact of proposed changes on people who are under psychiatric confinement orders.

May 2015

Submission on the National Disability Insurance Scheme Quality and Safeguarding Framework

This submission called for more supported decision making for people with psychosocial disabilities, as part of the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework.

March 2015

NDIS Framework for Information, Linkages and Capacity Building – Submission to the Department of Social Services

In this submission, Mental Health Australia raised significant concerns about the NDIS Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (Tier 2). The submission noted that more information is required before stakeholders can form a proper view.

February 2015

Pre-budget submission to 2015-16 Federal Budget

In response to an invitation from the Federal Treasurer to submit views regarding priorities for the 2015-16 Budget, Mental Health Australia provided this submission based on the *Blueprint for Action on Mental Health*.

February 2015

Submission to the Development of the Australian Mental Health Care Classification

This submission raised concerns regarding some of the more technical and detailed aspects involved in building the AMHCC.

November 2014

Blueprint for Action on Mental Health

The product of extensive sector engagement, the *Blueprint* was Mental Health Australia's fourth and final submission to the NMHC Review.

November 2014

Opening Statement by Frank Quinlan, CEO of Mental Health Australia, to Joint Parliamentary Committee on the NDIS

This opening statement conveyed the views of Mental Health Australia in relation to the implementation of the NDIS in trial sites.

August 2014

Submission to the Senate Inquiry on the Extent of Income Inequality in Australia

This submission outlined the key impacts income inequality can have on health, housing

and employment outcomes for mental health consumers and carers. Mental Health Australia offered proposals to reduce income inequality by ensuring income support payments are adequate to enable people to meet the costs of living including higher costs associated with living with mental illness and/or disability and caring.

August 2014

Making the Welfare System Work for Mental Health Consumers and Carers – Submission to the Interim Report of the Reference Group on Welfare Reform (The McClure Review)

This joint submission from Mental Health Australia and the NMHCCF was in response to the Interim Report by the Reference Group on Welfare Reform. It outlined key issues for the mental health sector (including consumers and carers) arising out of the Interim Report.

July 2014

Submission to the ALRC discussion paper on equal recognition of people with disability before the law – Mental health and insurance May 2014

This submission responded to the Australian Law Reform Commission's Discussion Paper as part of its Inquiry into Equality, Capacity and Disability in Commonwealth Laws.



Strategic Focus Area 3 – Encouraging

4



4. Strategic Focus Area 3 – Encouraging

To advocate for policies, services and systems that work effectively and efficiently together.

Highlights 2014–15

- Creation of a National Consumer and Carer NDIS Advisory Group
- Development of a discussion paper on the implications of supported decision making for people with psychosocial disability under the NDIS
- Regular updates provided to the sector on efforts to integrate mental health into the NDIS
- Participation in the NDIA's Mental Health Sector Reference Group
- Development of a comprehensive handover pack for the future National Mental Health Consumer Organisation

National Disability Insurance Scheme

Mental Health Australia NDIS Capacity Building Project

In November 2013 Mental Health Australia signed an agreement with the NDIA to deliver the NDIS Mental Health Capacity Building Project until 30 October 2016.

During 2014–15 Mental Health Australia undertook the following activities:

- NDIS Capacity Building Project updates released quarterly
- Maintaining NDIS web based resources including filming and posting of relevant presentation activities on the Mental Health Australia website
- Creation of a National Consumer and Carer NDIS Advisory Group
- Initiation of a joint project, in partnership with the NDIA, to identify packages of support for people with psychosocial disability

- Development of discussion papers on mental health carer issues and on supported decision making for people with psychosocial disability in the context of the NDIS

Advocacy work on the NDIS

Mental Health Australia also continued to work with members and stakeholders within and outside NDIS trial sites to identify the implications of transition to the NDIS for the mental health sector. This information is being used to inform the NDIS Capacity Building Project above as well as feed into discussions with governments and broader systemic advocacy.

In response to the sector's concerns about the NDIS, in December 2014 the NDIA convened a Mental Health Sector Reference Group (NMHSRG), the first such group of its kind to advise the NDIA. Mental Health Australia is a member along with stakeholders from the NDIA, consumers and carers, Department of Social Services and Department of Health. The NMHSRG will work with key stakeholders to address some of the sector's concerns around scheme design and implementation.

National Mental Health Consumer Organisation Establishment Project

Through this project, Mental Health Australia and the CRG developed the foundations for a sustainable organisation built on good governance, governed by and for people with lived experience of mental health issues.

The transition from project to an independent organisation was originally scheduled for September 2014. However, uncertainty about ongoing funding for the new organisation meant many project milestones were put on hold in mid-2014, including Board and CEO recruitment, and a national membership campaign. In October 2014 the project scope was officially reduced and activity focused on finalising a suite of draft documents and resources for the future organisation. Mental Health Australia and the CRG developed a comprehensive handover pack, which included:

- the Constitution and an associated Guide
- Board recruitment documentation
- Corporate Governance Manual
- CEO position description
- operational policies
- recommendations about key performance indicators, organisational sustainability, and strategic directions
- name and brand options.

Key documents from the pack are available on the [project website](#).

The project finished on 31 May 2015. The Government is currently considering the future of the organisation as part of its response to the NMHC Review.



Strategic Focus Area 4 – Engaging

5



5. Strategic Focus Area 4 – Engaging

To help the mental health sector share information and work together.

Highlights 2014–15

- Audiences continue to grow for all Mental Health Australia publications and social media platforms
- Launch of new name and brand
- Launch of a new bi-monthly online magazine - *Perspectives*
- Successful World Mental Health Day campaign with over 8,000 promises being submitted to the 1010.org.au website
- Collaboration with the ABC as part of their 'Mental As' campaign including a documentary airing on ABC2
- The annual Grace Groom Memorial Oration delivered by Vice-Admiral Ray Griggs, Vice-Chief of the Australian Defence Force and hosted by Chris Uhlmann from the ABC

Communications and Public Relations

Mental Health Australia has a focus on improving sector knowledge and capacity through dissemination of information, sharing of activity and provision of a platform to reduce stigma in the community. This is achieved through a number of channels.

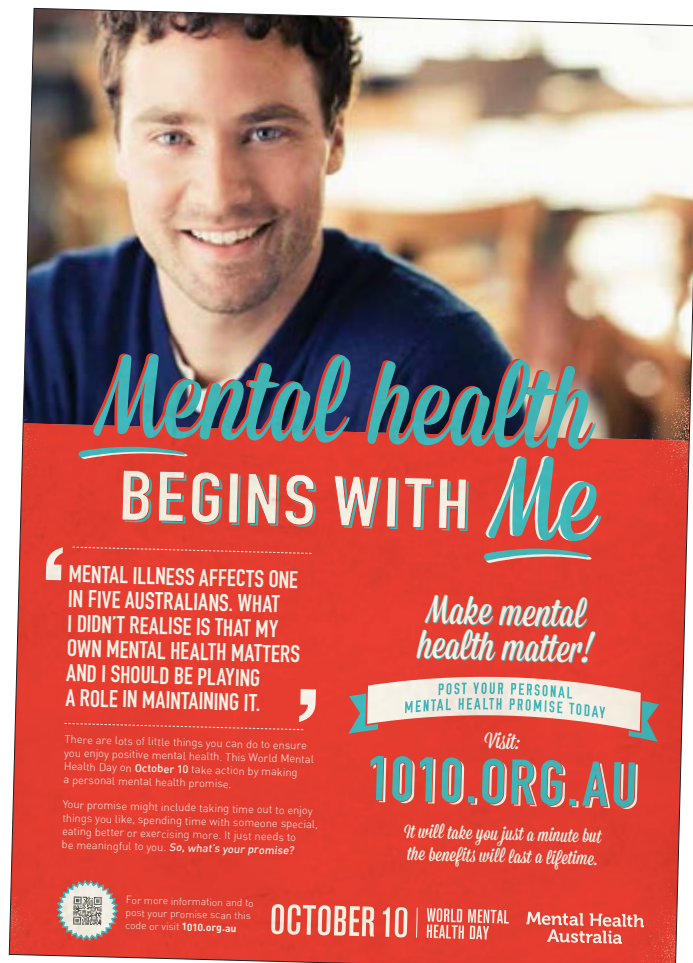
The weekly CEO Update newsletter is sent to members and stakeholders, outlining work being done by Mental Health Australia and alerting readers to sector information and events. The weekly update contains a mix of Mental Health Australia news, broader mental health and related sector news, parliamentary news, information about government policy, opportunities for input and funding, and information items from a range of government, NGO and broad stakeholders. The number of people subscribing to the update continues to increase with over 2,100 subscriber individuals and organisations.

All Mental Health Australia publications, media releases and policy statements are distributed to members, uploaded to the website and advertised through updates, social media and email notifications. Our following on social media continues to grow with the audience on Twitter and Facebook increasing by 72% and 47% respectively throughout this year.

A direct benefit of membership is a weekly media summary featuring mental health related stories from Australia and overseas as well as media materials and coverage generated by Mental Health Australia.

A bi-monthly, electronic magazine was launched in August 2014. *Perspectives* features articles contributed by member organisations and encourages discussion on key issues facing the sector. The number of subscribers for this publication is now over 1,800.

The Mental Health Australia website continues to grow and engage our audience with the site receiving 234,401 page views during this year.



World Mental Health Day – 10 October

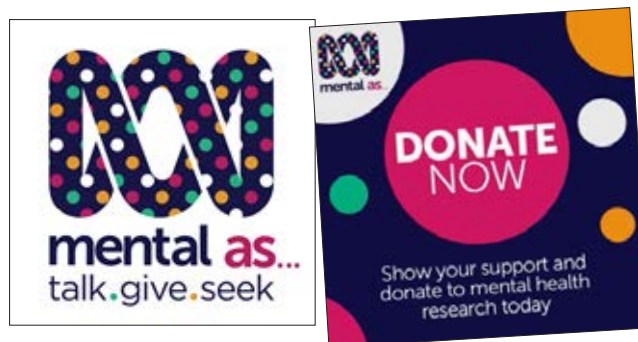
October 2014 saw an extremely successful national campaign for World Mental Health Day. The campaign focused on three themes: reducing stigma, encouraging help seeking and bringing communities together. Utilising an interactive concept and online platform, the 'Mental Health Begins with Me' campaign called on everyone to make a mental health promise to themselves, regardless of their personal mental health history. The campaign achieved the following highlights:

- ABC2 airing the documentary 'Felicity's Mental Mission' which featured Australian comedian Felicity Ward exploring mental health and actively encouraging Australians to get involved in the *Mental Health Begins with Me* campaign and make their own mental health promise.
- Director of Communications Chris Wagner appearing alongside campaign spokesperson John Caldwell on Weekend Sunrise
- Celebrity endorsement of the campaign with promises made by Felicity Ward, Missy Higgins,

Jessica Rowe, Peter Overton, Preston Campbell, Andrew O'Keefe, Jennifer Westacott, MP Peter Dutton, MP Bob Katter, Senator Penny Wright, Ash London, John Caldwell, Steve Bedwell, Mark Gable and others.

- Radio interviews and community service announcements about the campaign from Peter Overton, Steve Bedwell, Jessica Rowe, Mark Gable, Frank Quinlan, Preston Campbell and John Caldwell totalling in more than 86 hours of radio air time across several hundred radio stations and unique audience markets around the nation.
- Over 8000 promises for mental health appearing on the promise wall.
- Cross promotion through Mental Health Australia members and stakeholders including R U OK?, Lifeline, beyondblue and SANE Australia.
- 20,000 balloons, 10,000 wristbands, 15,000 posters, and 220,000 postcards distributed nationally.
- The campaign achieved a global reach, engaging audiences in the USA, UK, New Zealand and parts of Europe, Asia and the Americas.

The campaign will continue in 2015, with deeper engagement from partner organisations and a more grassroots approach to advertising.



'Mental As' Campaign

'Mental As' represented a significant milestone for the mental health sector, with the ABC facilitating a national week-long conversation about mental health in October 2014. The week saw documentaries, shows and conversations on radio, television and online.

Mental Health Australia collaborated with television production company Screentime and comedian Felicity Ward to produce an hour long

feature documentary about the *Mental Health Begins with Me* campaign. This documentary was broadcast on ABC2 as part of the campaign and re-broadcast the following week on ABC1. The show followed Ward as she explored mental illness, through interviews, stand-up comedy and discussing her own experiences. The show focussed heavily on promises posted to the campaign Promise Wall at 1010.org.au.

Grace Groom Memorial Oration

The annual Grace Groom Memorial Oration was held at the National Press Club in October 2014 and hosted by Chris Uhlmann from the ABC. The Vice-Chief of the Australian Defence Force (ADF), Vice-Admiral Ray Griggs delivered the Oration and discussed the various initiatives the ADF have implemented to protect the mental health of defence personnel and their families. The Oration was followed by an on-stage panel discussion between Admiral Griggs, Chris Uhlmann and former TV executive Adam Boland who spoke about his personal experiences with mental illness. The event was attended by a range of stakeholders from the mental health sector, as well as members of the media.

Members Policy Forum

Mental Health Australia convened two Members Policy Forums over the course of the 2014–15 financial year, the first in October 2014 and the second in February 2015.

The October 2014 forum was held at Old Parliament House and a range of issues were discussed including progress with the Review of Australia's Welfare System, the Federation White Paper, Activity Based Funding and the NMHC Review. Participants also held an in-depth discussion of Mental Health Australia's *7 Point Plan for Action on Mental Health* and provided feedback on the *Blueprint for Action on Mental Health*.

The February 2015 forum was held in conjunction with the Mental Health Parliamentary Advocacy Day which is detailed in Strategic Focus Area 1: Co-designing.

Member engagement

Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

Mental Health Australia worked with the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse to develop a fact sheet for mental health service providers. The fact sheet provides straightforward advice for service providers on how to help people engage with the Royal Commission and tell their story, along with information on the importance of ensuring they are informed about complex trauma and its impacts. It was sent to Mental Health Australia members by email and post in September 2014 and is available on the Mental Health Australia website.

RACGP General Practice Patient Charter

In September 2014, Mental Health Australia provided information to members about the Royal Australian College of GP's draft General Practice Patient Charter. The Charter provides guidance on what patients can expect when seeking or receiving care and what the profession expects from patients to help facilitate delivery of safe and high quality clinical care. Members were encouraged to provide feedback on the draft charter and Mental Health Australia policy staff worked with the NMHCCF to develop a submission.

Alliances and collaborations

Mentally Healthy Workplace Alliance

The Mentally Healthy Workplace Alliance brings together a range of organisations committed to working with businesses to create mentally healthy workplaces. Mental Health Australia is one of the founding members and the CEO is on the Mentally Healthy Workplace Alliance Steering Committee.

Mental Health Australia continues to advise and participate on this important initiative, including supporting the promotional work being undertaken by the Alliance in workplaces through the Heads Up campaign.

National Suicide Prevention Alliance

In September 2014, staff attended a workshop convened by Suicide Prevention Australia on the National Research Action Plan for Suicide Prevention. In addition, Mental Health Australia is part of the National Suicide Prevention Alliance and provides advice on communications and campaigns through participation in the Alliance's Communications Managers Workshop held annually in April, in the lead up to Suicide Prevention Day in September each year.

Social Determinants of Health Alliance

Mental Health Australia is a member of this Alliance and highlights issues pertaining to mental health.

In August 2014, the CEO attended a National Press Club address on the social determinants of health, which drew attention to the social and economic factors that impact on health, including mental health.

National Complex Needs Alliance

Mental Health Australia continues to be involved in the National Complex Needs Alliance, and worked to ensure mental illness remains an important plank of the Alliance's work. This included assisting with the inaugural position paper for the Alliance released in December 2014. This important document provides clarity on the concept of complex needs and advocates for appropriate, consistent community responses.

Carer Consortium

In March 2015, Mental Health Australia, Private Mental Health Consumer Carer Network (Australia), Mental Health Carers Arafmi (WA), Mind Australia, and Mental Health Carers Arafmi (Australia) commenced work on a practical guide for working with carers of people with a mental illness. The guide will assist service providers to work with carers in a meaningful, mutually beneficial way. It is anticipated the guide will be completed within 12 months.

Mental Health Australia has also recently engaged Carers Australia to work with mental health carers to develop a resource to support carers to engage with the NDIS.

Pharma Collaboration

The Mental Health Australia Pharma Collaboration provides an opportunity for the mental health sector to maintain a relationship with the medicines industry. Partners in 2014–15 were Janssen-Cilag Australia Pty Ltd, Lundbeck Australia Pty Ltd, Pfizer Australia Pty Ltd, and Medicines Australia (the peak body for the prescription medicines sector).

The Mental Health Australia Pharma Collaboration focuses on quality use of medicines and promotes participation of consumers and carers in decisions about their health care as an essential strategy to achieve this. As part of our interest in quality use of medicines, the CEO attended a meeting convened by the Public Health Association in August 2014 on the health impacts of the *Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement*. We also maintain representation on several key groups including the Reducing Adverse Medication Events in Mental Health Services Working Party, the Pharmacy Guild Mental Health Advisory Panel and the Safety and Quality Partnerships Standing Committee.

The Collaboration met several times during the period and agreed to support consumer and carer attendance at World Mental Health Day activities and input to national medicines policy via Mental Health Australia representation on key mental health policy advisory committees.

Mental Health Conference Funding Program

Mental Health Australia received funding from the Australian Government Department of Health for the Mental Health Conference Funding Program to provide financial assistance to support mental health and/or suicide prevention themed conferences and events.

The Program was very popular in 2014–15 and highly competitive with some funding rounds attracting more than 30 applicants. The funds applied for often exceeded funds available for allocation and the reach of the Program was quite diverse with funded conference topics covering issues such as:

- Suicide prevention
- Grief
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Borderline Personality Disorder
- Indigenous Mental Health
- Regional Mental Health
- Inner City Mental Health
- Attachment and Trauma Informed Practice
- Youth Mental Health
- LGBTI Mental Health
- Eating Disorders

This Program ceased operation in its current form in June 2015. Mental Health Australia is hopeful that Government assistance will be made available to support the involvement of mental health consumers and carers in mental health and suicide prevention themed conferences in future.

Strategic Focus Area 5 – Managing

6



6. Strategic Focus Area 5 – Managing

To ensure Mental Health Australia is an influential, innovative, financially secure, robust, and well governed organisation.

Highlights 2014–15

- Participation in the 'Care Aware' Program
- Provision of professional growth opportunities for women in the workplace, including the Swinburne University's 'Women with Influence' program
- A Mental Health First Aid training course for staff
- Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan launched February 2015

Our People

Representation of our workforce

The representation of Mental Health Australia's workforce continues to demonstrate a strong commitment towards gender equality.

WORKPLACE PROFILE	COMMUNITY SERVICE – MENTAL HEALTH AUSTRALIA											
	Full-time		%	Part-time		%	Casual		%	Total		%
Occupational Category	F	M	F	F	M	F	F	M	F	F	M	F
Gender												
Board	5	4	56			0			0	5	4	56
Executive Management	1	2	33	1	1	50			0	2	3	40
Management	3	1	75	4		100	1		100	8	1	89
Project Officers	3		100			0			0	3		100
Administration Staff	2	1	67			0			0	2	1	67
TOTAL	14	8	64	5	1	83	1	0	100	20	9	69

Gender Equality and Workforce Diversity

Mental Health Australia continued to make progress towards achieving sustainable gender equity, diversity and inclusion under its five year Diversity Management Plan. A number of initiatives were undertaken during the year, including:

- Review and refinement of policies and processes impacting gender equality and diversity to ensure coherence and synergy
- Visible leadership commitment and promotion of a range of flexible, family-friendly working arrangements, including part-time employment, telecommuting, working from home, flexible working hours, make-up time, hours banked and purchased annual leave, where these processes have been successfully integrated into business and people practices
- Voluntary participation in the 'Care Aware' Program to further enhance opportunities for employees who are parents and carers to better balance work and parental or caring roles
- Provision of professional growth opportunities for women in the workplace, including the Swinburne University's 'Women with Influence' program.

Work Health and Safety

Mental Health Australia had another excellent result this year with no lost time to injuries or workers compensation claims.

Mentally Healthy Workplace initiatives

During the year Mental Health Australia continued to provide initiatives through its corporate health program, 'Health in Mind' to promote the wellbeing of employees. Activities included on-site free influenza vaccination, corporate subsidy for individual health and fitness activities, ergonomic assessments, massage, nutrition and arranged activities on national health observance days.

A Mental Health First Aid training course was also conducted during the year. This training provides employees with the knowledge and resources to support others, and also promotes a positive culture toward mental health. Mental Health Australia's commitment towards a mentally healthy workplace was also

demonstrated through its actions to join the Heads Up program, sponsored by the Mentally Healthy Workplace Alliance.

Staff

Mental Health Australia's success depends on the experience and dedication of its staff. The team combined skills in business, financial and program management, policy development, planning, accounting, communications and administration.

Staff at 30 June 2015 were:

Mr Frank Quinlan

Chief Executive Officer

Ms Melanie Cantwell

**Deputy Chief Executive Officer/
Company Secretary**

Mr Josh Fear

Director, Policy and Projects

Ms Kylie Wake

Director, Consumer and Carer Programs

Mr Chris Wagner

Director of Communications

Ms Mardi Savill

Finance Manager

Mr Daniel Casey

Manager Policy and Projects

Ms Sarah Morrison

Online Manager

Ms Joanne Huxley

**Manager Communications
and Stakeholder Engagement**

Ms Carolyn Murphy

Corporate Services Manager

Ms Delia Witney

Human Resources Manager

Ms Liz Ruck

Senior Policy Officer

Ms Emma Coughlan

Admin/Project Officer – Policy and Projects

Ms Louise O'Donnell

Senior Policy Analyst

Ms Kathryn Sequoia

**Executive Officer – NMHCCF
and National Register**

Ms Emma Judges

**Admin/Project Officer – NMHCCF
and National Register**

Mr Peter O'Rourke
PR and Events Coordinator

Ms Sandra Mortimore
Executive Assistant/Corporate Support Officer

Ms Amy Byrne
Finance/HR Officer

Governance

Our governance structure ensures the Board, staff and member organisations collaborate effectively to support our vision of mentally healthy people and mentally healthy communities.

The Mental Health Australia Board is made up of ten members – six elected directors drawn from the membership, two Board-appointed directors and one consumer and one carer elected director from the membership.

As per the new constitution for a company limited by guarantee, Board elections were undertaken via electronic voting ahead of the October 2014 Annual General Meeting. Members reported high levels of satisfaction with the process and it was encouraging so many strong candidates nominated to serve Mental Health Australia and its members.

The Mental Health Australia Board oversees its Finance, Audit and Risk Management (FARM) Committee, which meets at least four times per year to review the organisation's finances and risks. The FARM committee reviews and prepares a number of reports for the Board in relation to the financial reports, WH&S, business continuity and risk management, and the oversight of various Mental Health Australia projects.

The Mental Health Australia Board Governance Committee meets at least twice per year and on an ad hoc basis and considers applications for membership for endorsement by the Board. In addition, the Governance Committee closely monitored the transition to a company limited by guarantee and provides oversight of governance-related activities.

Mental Health Australia has extensive internal processes and procedures to ensure best practice in terms of finances, risk management and employment and ensures Mental Health Australia remains compliant with legislation and regulatory

bodies i.e. the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission (ACNC), Australian Tax Office, and the Australian Securities and Investments Commission. Mental Health Australia undertakes all relevant reporting based on a compliance calendar, for example submitting the Annual Information Statement to the ACNC.

Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan

Mental Health Australia developed a Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), which was launched by Dr Tom Calma AO in February 2015. In developing the Reflect RAP, Mental Health Australia will ensure the organisation is well positioned to implement effective and mutually beneficial initiatives as part of a future RAP. This Reflect RAP, and our future RAP, will identify relationships, respect and opportunities specific to our business and our sphere of influence.

Mental Health Australia's Reflect RAP can be downloaded from [our website](#).



Members

Mental Health Australia values the support and input received from our member organisations, all of whom play a direct role in achieving our strategic priorities. Mental Health Australia would like to acknowledge and thank members for their support.

Members at 30 June 2015 were:

Voting Members

Adults Surviving Child Abuse (ASCA)

Aftercare

Alzheimer's Australia

Australian Association of Development
Disability Medicine

Australian Association of Social Workers

Australian College of Mental Health Nurses

Australian Counselling Association

Australian Infant Child Adolescent
and Family Mental Health Association

Australian Medical Association

Australian Psychological Society

Australian Rotary Health

Australian Society of Psychological Medicine

beyondblue

Black Dog Institute

Brain & Mind Research Institute

Carers Australia

Catholic Health Australia

Catholic Social Services Australia

Dietitians Association of Australia

dNet – People Like Us

Grow

headspace

International Association of Infant Massage,
Australia Inc

Lifeline Australia

Mental Health Carers ARAFMI Australia

Mental Health Coalition of South Australia

Mental Health Community Coalition of the ACT

Mental Health Coordinating Council

Mental Health Council of Tasmania

Mental Health First Aid Australia

Mental Health Foundation Australia

Mental Health Professionals Network

Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia Inc

Mind Australia

National Aboriginal Community Controlled
Health Organisation

National Anxiety Disorders Organisations
Network (NADON)

National LGBTI Health Alliance

National Rural Health Alliance

Neami National

Northern Territory Mental Health Coalition

NSW Council of Intellectual Disability

Occupational Therapy Australia

On the Line

ORYGEN The National Centre of Excellence
in Youth Mental Health

Ostara Australia

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia

PANDA – Perinatal Anxiety and Depression
Australia

Private Mental Health Alliance

Private Mental Health Consumer Carer
Network (Australia)

Psychiatric Disability Services of Victoria
(VICSERV)

Psychosis Australia Trust

Psychotherapy and Counselling Federation
of Australia (PACFA)

Queensland Alliance

Queensland Centre for Mental Health Research

Ramsay Health Care

ReachOut Australia

Relationships Australia

Richmond Fellowship of Australia

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners

SANE Australia

Society for Mental Health Research

Speech Pathology Australia

Suicide Prevention Australia

The Butterfly Foundation

The Florey Institute of Neuroscience
and Mental Health
The Pharmacy Guild of Australia
The Royal Australian and New Zealand
College of Psychiatrists
TheMHS Learning Network Inc
WA Association for Mental Health

Non-Voting Members

ACT Mental Health Consumer Network
Anxiety Recovery Centre Victoria
ARAFMI Queensland
Artius Pty Ltd
ASPIRE
Australian Red Cross
Being – Mental Health & Wellbeing
Consumer Advisory Group
Break Thru People Solutions
Care Connect
CatholicCare NT
Centacare Catholic Diocese of Ballarat Inc
Centacare Catholic Family Services
Central Coast Family Support Services Inc
Coffs Harbour Employment Support
Services Limited
Club Haven
Converge International Ltd
Dulwich Centre Foundation
Eating Disorders Foundation of Victoria Inc
Exercise and Sports Science Australia
Fernhills Clinic
Finding Workable Solutions
Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence Inc
Graceville Centre
HelpingMinds
JobCo Employment Services Inc
Karakan Hostels
Lamp Inc
Lives Lived Well
McAuley Community Services for Women
Mental Health Association NSW
Mental Illness Education ACT

Mental Illness Fellowship of
North Queensland Inc
Mental Illness Fellowship of Queensland
Mentally Healthy WA
MLC Community Foundation
Movember
Newcastle Family Support Services Inc
Open Minds
Pathways South West Inc
Peninsula Support Services Inc
Permanent Care and Adoptive Families
Post Placement Support Service
Queensland Voice for Mental Health
Reconnexion – A service of EACH
Richmond Fellowship Queensland
Ruah Community Services
Social Firms Australia
TEAMhealth
The Australasian Centre for Rural
& Remote Mental Health
The Compassionate Friends VIC Inc
Tully Support Centre
UCare Gawler Inc
WISE Employment Ltd
WISHIN Inc
Workability

Patrons and Partners

We are pleased to have the support of eminent
Australians who share our vision of mentally
healthy people and mentally healthy
communities.

Throughout the year our Patrons have provided
much appreciated advice and assisted with the
promotion of mental health issues to the media
and the Australian people.

Our Patrons are:

Ms Jessica Rowe
Mr Peter Overton
Mr Jonathan Welch
Mr David Galbally QC

We would also like to thank the organisations who have partnered with us throughout the year and provided financial support for our activities:

- The Australian Government Department of Health
- The Australian Government Department of Social Services
- The National Mental Health Commission
- The National eHealth Transition Authority
- The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse
- Lundbeck Australia
- Pfizer Australia
- Janssen Cilag Australia
- National Disability Insurance Agency
- Independent Hospitals Pricing Authority



Finance, Audit &
Risk Management
Committee Report

7



7. Finance, Audit & Risk Management Committee Report

The Audited Financial Statements for Mental Health Australia Limited for the year ended 30 June 2015 have been finalised and are available for download at www.mhaustralia.org.

The reports were prepared as General Purpose Reports. The Auditors have stated the reports are a 'true and fair view' of the organisation's financial position as at that date. The Auditors have issued an unqualified audit report.

Mental Health Australia Limited was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee on 23 June 2014. On 1 July 2014 the net assets of Mental Health Council of Australia Incorporated were transferred to the Company and recognised as donation revenue of \$1,773,843; the Company's operations for the current year resulted in a surplus of \$1,697,036.

Because this was the first year of operations as a company limited by guarantee, the Audited Financial Statements show no comparatives for the prior year.

For the 2014–15 financial year, total operating revenue was \$4,086,936 and total operating expenditure was \$4,163,743 compared to revenue of \$3,982,329 and expenditure of \$3,991,932 for the 2013–14 financial year. The operating result was a deficit of \$76,807 (2013–14 deficit \$9,604).

As at 30 June 2015, Total Assets of Mental Health Australia Limited were \$2,742,226 (2013–14 \$2,961,274) and Total Liabilities were \$1,045,190 (2013–14 \$1,187,431). Total Equity was \$1,697,036 (2013–14 \$1,773,843), represented by Working Capital of \$1,505,519 (2013–14 \$1,556,562), Property, Plant and Equipment of \$191,516 (2013–14 \$217,281), and Non-Current Liabilities (provision for employee entitlements) of \$19,183 (2013–14 \$16,570).

In the 2014–15 financial year, operating grants of \$3,725,972 (2013–14 \$3,689,678) represented 91% (2013–14 77%) of the total revenue received. These funds were received from the Australian Government Departments of Health, and Social Services; the National Disability Insurance Agency; the National Mental Health Commission; the Pharma Collaboration; Independent Hospital Pricing Authority and state governments supporting the NMHCCF to undertake contracted activities. These funds were expended to achieve the outcomes required in the various contracts.

The CEO, Deputy CEO and other staff have worked tirelessly and effectively during the past twelve months to work towards provision of the best mental health services so desperately needed by consumers and carers and to ensure their voices are heard through Mental Health Australia Limited. The Finance, Audit & Risk Management Committee commend them on a sound result.

Arthur Papakotsias
**Chair, Finance, Audit &
Risk Management Committee**

Mental Health Australia

mhaustralia.org

