

MEETING OUTCOMES

16 JANUARY 2018

Project Management Group – optimal psychosocial support services in the NDIS

The Project Management Group met by teleconference on 16 January 2018.

Attendees:

Liz Crowther, Wellways (Chair)
Dr Sarah Pollock, Mind Australia
Tony Stevenson, MiFA
Mark Orr, Flourish Australia
Damian Ferrie, Star Health
Jenny Hall, Neami National
Judi Higgin, New Horizons
Kerry Hawkins, Carer representative
Debbie Hamilton, Consumer representative
David McGrath, McGrath Consulting
Belinda Highmore, Mental Health Australia

Apologies

Arthur Papakotsias, Neami National

Outcomes

- Project partners welcomed Debbie Hamilton and Kerry Hawkins to the Project Management Group.
- The meeting discussed the arrangements for providing input to David McGrath's work and, given the tight timeframe for the project, agreed that David will need to receive data and advice from experts without reference to their respective employees.

Data collection

- In respect of obtaining data from project partners, it was agreed that in the interests of speeding up the data collection, David McGrath will make requests for data directly to the data experts nominated by each project partner. In the event the executive of a project partner subsequently decides to withdraw the data from the project, David McGrath will return the data to the relevant organisation or destroy it at their request. Tony Stevenson noted that as MiFA has to capture data from a number of its members, MiFA will develop protocols to support that process. Some project partners would review their nominated data experts and provide names and contact details to Mental Health Australia.



Project Expert Group

- It was agreed that project partners would nominate representatives, and that those experts would provide advice to David McGrath as experts in their own right and not defer to their employer, in the interests of time. Those nominees are:

Sarah Pollock, Mind Australia who agreed to chair the Project Expert Group

Laura Collister, Wellways, with expertise in NDIS service delivery across disabilities

Suzy Berry, MiFA (employed by selectability a NDIS, indigenous and regional i.e. thin market – service provider)

Alan Murnane, Star Health with experience of Commonwealth and state and territory programs and interface with clinical services

Jenny Hall, Neami

Aidan Conway, Flourish Australia

- **Debbie Hamilton** and **Kerry Hawkins** will provide consumer and carer input to the Project Expert Group. The meeting agreed to bring in additional consumer and carer representatives and that Debbie and Kerry would consider who the Project Management Team would invite. Alternatively, a further call on the National Consumer and Carer Register could be made.
- It was agreed that the Project Expert Group would benefit from a person with experience in the disability sector (i.e. a person not from the mental health sector). After discussing the pros and cons, it was agreed not to approach the National Disability Service for an expert as it could create some tension between the 'sub-sectors' and the person may not fully appreciate the narrow scope of the work of the project. Instead it was agreed to approach an academic working in disability policy. The secretariat would compile profiles of people and circulate to the Project Management Group to vote on who should be invited to be on the group.
- Damian Griffis, CEO, First Peoples Disability Network Australia would be invited.
- Dr Richard Newton, former President of the College of Psychiatrists would be invited to bring a clinical perspective to the Project Expert Group.
- Consideration was given to bringing in Western Australian and families perspectives, through Helping Minds in WA and Carers Tasmania. It was agreed that if David McGrath identified during his work that the families perspective was needed an invitation would be extended at that stage.
- After discussion about how best to engage the NDIA in the project, it was agreed not to invite the NDIA to nominate a person for the Project Expert Group and instead for Mental Health Australia to prepare a strategy for engaging the NDIA in the project, including a broader stakeholder engagement e.g. the Department of Social Services and the National Disability Service.



Contract/MoU signing

- The meeting noted that due to the delay in the full execution of the service agreement with Mental Health Australia the project needed to be extended by one month. A new service agreement with a completion date for the end of July 2018 had been circulated by email for signature. Project partners that were yet to sign the service agreement with Mental Health Australia indicated they would progress that within the week.
- As Project Partners signed their respective page of the service agreement, Mental Health Australia would send an invoice as per the payment schedule. The fully executed agreement would be provided to all Project Partners as soon as it was available.

Additional project partners

- Tony Stevenson advised that Andrew Young from Aftercare had agreed to join the project.
- Any further Project Partners would require renegotiation of the governance arrangements and the terms of engagement, and that this would further slow the project down as new partners are brought up to speed. However, it was noted that where possible the mental health sector should be brought along and be able to be involved where possible. Mental Health Australia was asked to develop a proposal for approaching other partners, before the next meeting.

Next steps

- It was now urgent for data experts to provide their coding manuals to David McGrath so that he could understand and compile the relevant data filed for data collection. Mental Health Australia would recirculate to the data experts the notes of the data expert meeting in November 2018 requesting they provide their coding manuals to David McGrath.
- The external experts for the Project Management Group need to be in place in time for David McGrath to convene a meeting of the Project Expert Group in mid-March 2018.

The next meeting of the Project Management Group will be held by teleconference on Tuesday 27 February 2018.

