

MEETING OUTCOMES

22 MAY 2018

Project Management Group – optimal psychosocial support services in the NDIS

The Project Management Group met by teleconference on 22 May 2018.

Attendees:

Liz Crowther, Wellways (Chair)
Arthur Papakotsias, Neami National (Deputy Chair)
Kerry Hawkins, Carer representative
Dr Sarah Pollock, Mind Australia
Tony Stevenson, MiFA – from 3.15 til 4pm
Mark Orr, Flourish Australia
Damian Ferrie, Star Health
Alan Murnane, Star Health
Andrew Young, Aftercare
David McGrath, McGrath Consulting – from 4pm
Debbie Kaplan, McGrath Consulting
Josh Fear, Mental Health Australia
Belinda Highmore, Mental Health Australia
Kath Sequoia, Mental Health Australia

Apologies

Debbie Hamilton, Consumer representative
Judi Higgin, New Horizons

Outcomes and action items for 24 April meeting

- The meeting outcomes were accepted.
- The action items were noted, and it was agreed to publish the redacted meeting outcomes as circulated to the Group on 9 May 2018.

Sector engagement strategy

- The revised engagement strategy and revised budget was noted.
- Discussion about the current media on the shortcomings of the NDIS and how psychosocial support service providers might enter the public debate concluded with a decision that the Mental Health Australia Communications Director will liaise with communications staff in the partner organisations to develop a communications strategy for the project.



- Following consideration of a request by Community Mental Health Australia (CMHA) to have a formal role in the project, the Project Management Group agreed for CMHA to become a member of the Project Management Group and to have an active role in the implementation of the sector engagement strategy. The CMHA logo will be included on the project webpage.
- The Chair will advise CMHA in writing. Mental Health Australia will assist the Executive Director familiarise herself with the progress of the project to date and work with her to implement the sector engagement strategy.
- There was a discussion about the extent to which community-managed organisations will support the project and how to manage divergent views about the project. The Group agreed it was important there be a return on the investment made by the project partners for the whole sector. Given the timeframe for the project, and the highly technical nature of aggregating and analysing service data to produce evidence based outputs (list of psychosocial services and typical support packages), the Project Management Group noted the limitations for sufficiently addressing alternative perspectives within the project methodology.
- The Group reaffirmed the intended outcomes for the sector engagement strategy, which is for the sector to have a united voice in lobbying the NDIA and the Department of Social Services on effective care at a reasonable price for people with psychosocial disability.
- In respect of the impact on Indigenous people, Mental Health Australia will approach the Queensland Centre for Mental Health Research to ascertain if they have an active group that could review and provide an Indigenous perspective on the project outputs. An approach will also be made to WAAMH to ascertain if the Looking Forward project offers a mechanism for providing an Indigenous perspective.

Budget update

- The revised budget, with a surplus of \$4,041, was noted.

Project progress report

- David McGrath provided a detailed update on the work of the Project Expert Group and his strategic thinking about reframing the current three purpose categories of NDIS supports (core, capital and capacity building) to two categories of supports (establish and maintain) – and which reflect a *time* series of supports needed, rather than a the current *content* series of supports. This reframing is a more purposeful alignment with the performance indicators for the NDIS described in the COAG Agreement for the NDIS.
- The Group expressed its appreciation for Mr McGrath’s thoughtful, strategic and elegant approach, and agreed it was the right direction for the project outputs.
- The Group noted Mr McGrath’s report that the data does not provide information about the characteristics of clients and agreed with his described method to develop categories of clients by cross referencing the National Mental Health Services Planning Framework with what the collected data shows as patterns of services for individuals in 12 month blocks.



NDIA engagement

- Mr McGrath had met with Gerry Naughtin prior to joining the meeting and provided an outline of the discussion.

NDIS pricing discussion

- No matters were raised for discussion.

The next meeting of the Project Management Group will be held by teleconference on Tuesday, 26 June 2018.

