



The National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Forum

26 October 2017

23 participants

Monitoring and Reporting Framework Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

ABOUT - The National Mental Health Commission is developing a strategic framework to guide our national monitoring and reporting on mental health and suicide prevention with input from consumers, carers, families and support people, service providers, policy and decision makers across Australia. This summary is from the workshop discussion held in Adelaide at the National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Forum.

KEY THEMES – at the workshop, the following issues were highlighted:

- Emphasising personal stories, through publishing a collation of stories in a safe and de-identified format.
- Targeting mental health outcomes in the next five years.
- Inclusion of stigma and discrimination.
- Reporting on carers' experiences, and the wellbeing of carers themselves.
- Utilisation of consumer and carer researchers and academics.
- Advocating for nationally consistent levels of reporting that involves the consumer and carer perspective.

THE FRAMEWORK – What are the key priorities and what is missing?

- Populations missing: the forensic population, health justice system, people experiencing homelessness, mental health workers, and peer workforce.
- Strengthening emphasis on culturally and linguistically diverse groups through consultations with organisations supporting these communities.



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DATA AND ANALYSIS – Where can we add value and what are the challenges?

- Concern was raised about the standard and accuracy of reporting by some services.
- Strong emphasis on the Commission using personal stories in reporting, similar to what has been done previously.
- In addition, consumers and carers telling their stories in Parliament with the Commission when attending meetings or hearings.
- Surveys from peak bodies and drawing information from networks.
- Acknowledgement that national outcomes measurement has been agreed upon by jurisdictions but there are inconsistencies in reporting.



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REPORTING FORMATS – What reporting formats should be considered?

- Utilising a variety of formats in order to reach different audiences.
- Acknowledging barriers to access including lack of confidence or ability to use the internet, and low literacy levels.
- Integrating quotes and stories.
- Investigative reporting looking into experiential perspectives and grass roots workers.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people find information through telling stories, and listening to stories; this could be incorporated by the Commission.
- Creative presentations of information.
- Using newspapers to report on stories.
- Providing summaries of detailed reports through a solid overview that is ‘jargon free’.
- Use of visuals and infographics to make information more accessible.
- Incorporating art work in the provision of information.

Thank you

The Commission is grateful for the time and invaluable insights workshop participants provided. The feedback gathered through the consultation will help us shape a national monitoring and reporting framework that will provide information to support change in mental health and suicide prevention.



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