



# Sydney

31 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 Sydney.

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

- Suicide prevention and mental ill health are related but are not the same and require separate consideration.
- The importance of including stigma and discrimination in the Framework.
- The addition of early years intervention and its impact on future life outcomes.
- The importance of utilising unique and innovative information sources and leveraging new collections from other organisations.
- Communication of next steps and clear implementation of the Framework.

DOMAINS – What are they key priorities and missing domains?

- Stronger emphasis on suicide prevention.
- Inclusion of areas related to safety in the *social domain*, such as people who have experienced trauma, domestic and family violence, child abuse and neglect.
- Capturing stigma and discrimination as an aspect of the social context.
- Incorporating a strengths based approach, looking at wellbeing and quality of life as measures of 'thriving.' This could additionally include measures of mental health literacy.
- Developing a measure or indication of unmet need.
- Inclusion of reform priorities from PHN and state-based plans where feasible, and the importance of collaboration and sharing data to avoid duplication.



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## PRIORITY GROUPS – Which groups are a priority and who has been missed?

- Many groups were raised by participants as missing from the Framework, these included: emergency service workers, early childhood intervention, people on Community Treatment Orders, young people in unsafe environments, people living with severe and complex mental illness, men, carers, children of parents with mental illness/disability, and perinatal mental health.
- Participants questioned the language of *priority groups* and suggested being mindful of how we separate a person into categories.



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

- Benchmarking and assessment of best practice is useful.
- There are challenges in accessing data from custodians.
- Being innovative and finding new ways to collect and analyse data given that current data may be unable to answer a lot of the questions we want to address.
- Ensuring consistency of data collection across states/territories.

## REPORTING FORMATS – What reporting formats should be considered?

- Use of visuals and plain language.
- Interactive formats so that people can look up information that is relevant to them and where they live.
- Use of summaries, report cards, and regular media releases.
- Presenting reporting that is well-coordinated and not duplicative.

# 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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