

MEETING OUTCOMES

26 JUNE 2018

Project Management Group – optimal psychosocial support services in the NDIS

The Project Management Group met by teleconference on 26 June 2018.

Attendees:

Liz Crowther, Wellways (Chair)
Kerry Hawkins, Carer representative
Debbie Hamilton, Consumer representative
Jenny Hall, Neami National
Sarah Pollock, Mind Australia
Mark Orr, Flourish Australia
Damian Ferrie, Star Health
Andrew Young, Aftercare
Amanda Bresnan, Community Mental Health Australia
David McGrath, McGrath Consulting
Debbie Kaplan, McGrath Consulting
Belinda Highmore, Mental Health Australia
Kath Sequoia, Mental Health Australia

Apologies

Tony Stevenson, MiFA
Judi Higgin, New Horizons
Josh Fear, Mental Health Australia

Outcomes and action items for 22 May meeting

- The meeting outcomes were accepted, and agreed for publication on the project webpage.
- The Chair welcomed Amanda Bresnan, representing Community Mental Health Australia, to the Group.
- The MHA Communications Director convened a teleconference with the project partners' communications staff on 28 June. Discussion centred around the extent to which project partners were engaging in public statements about the NDIS and emphasising the positive aspect of the Scheme. The PMG discussion highlighted that this project is about the sector being proactive to help improve the Scheme and not stand by while the Scheme failed to best meet the needs of people with psychosocial disability. The next teleconference for communications staff is scheduled for 17 July.
- The remaining outstanding action item was noted.



Project progress report

- David McGrath provided a detailed update on the work of the Project Expert Group and the Lived Experience Group – focussing on the topics of peer work, assistance animals, the analysis of the tiers of support needs, and assessment tools to identify the categorisations to which support tiers might be applied. It was noted that the Project Expert Group settled on CANSAS as the most appropriate assessment tool for this task.
- The support services list (NDIS Price Guide) is nearly complete, with a small number of 'out-of-session' adjustments to be made and circulated for endorsement. The PMG can expect to receive final recommendation about amendments to the NDIS Price Guide from the Project Expert Group within the next 10 days.
- The Group noted Mr McGrath's update on the development of four tiers of care packages by applying the National Mental Health Services Planning Framework to the project dataset, noting that the tiers are not designed for individual planning purposes.
- The PMG was provided with an overview of the information that the dataset provides about the cohorts of people to whom services were provided by project partners. It was noted that the dataset for people under the age of 25 years showed the same level of intensity across the four tiers, which does not align with the data patterns across the tiers for the other age cohorts. This data will be checked, as it may be that a price loading for young people is necessary.
- The PMG noted the large number of the various labels project partners use for their data collections and that Mr McGrath had to decide how best to aggregate those labels to arrive at a well-rounded dataset.
- It was also noted that the dataset is not designed to answer the questions set by the project. This is largely because the data collected by project partners aligns with the funding criteria set by governments for their respective programs – and not the needs of the people using services funded by those programs. It will therefore be important to explain to the NDIA the logic of the data collection, aggregation and analysis.
- The meeting identified the need to discuss advocacy tactics, with the NDIA as well as political advocacy.
- Mr McGrath reported the next activity for the Project Expert Group is to identify the most appropriate mechanism for identifying categories of cohorts in the dataset and allocate them to one of the four tiers.

NDIA engagement

- Mental Health Australia continues to meet with Gerry Naughtin on a regular basis about the project and to discuss how various parts of the project can provide expertise to respective areas of the NDIA for consideration. The next meeting was scheduled for 28 June, and a report will be provided to the PMG.

Sector engagement strategy

- A provider webinar was held on 14 June. There were 20 participants (from 41 registrations) - 2 participants from state peaks (QLD and NSW), 16 service providers, and 2 carers. There were no questions of concern about the project methodology from service providers during the webinar or via email after the webinar.



- A teleconference with State Peaks is scheduled for 28 June to update them on the project.
- Amanda Bresnan advised that she has identified Queensland and South Australia as strategically the most appropriate jurisdictions for presentations about the project and has spoken with the State Peaks in those jurisdictions. Ms Bresnan has also promoted the project through her ACOSS and Close the Gap Campaign Steering Committee networks.

NDIS pricing discussion

- The meeting noted the price changes from 1 July 2018. It was highlighted that there are few precedents in the world of an effective market where a single agency has controlled both price and the market.
- The meeting noted the closure of a service provider on the Gold Coast.

The next meeting of the Project Management Group will be held by teleconference on Tuesday, 17 July 2018, with discussion on the political advocacy strategy.

