

# FOREWARD

By  
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Chairperson  
National Community Advisory Group on Mental Health

Dear Workshop participants,

The National Community Advisory Group on Mental Health (NCAG) has pleasure in presenting "Let's Talk About Action", the report of the community consultation workshops undertaken on a national basis to examine the implementation of the recommendations of the Report of the Inquiry into the Human Rights of People with Mental Illness undertaken by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC).

Seventeen workshops were held in fifteen metropolitan and rural locations around Australia. Over 1000 consumers and carers participated in these workshops. I find it exiting that so many consumers and carers stood up to be counted and NCAG values this input enormously, realising it took a lot of courage for many people to participate in the process. We didn't have much time, (only just over a month in fact) and a small budget, however, NCAG is confident that the views of a wide range of consumers and carers have been well represented in this report.

The title of this report, "Let's Talk About Action" summarises the views of consumers and carers in relation to the report of the Human Rights Commission. Federal, State and Territory Governments must now address the challenge of responding to the Human Rights Commission Report in a manner that takes account of these views. In doing this it is important that all governments are mindful of the comments made by consumers and carers regarding the current implementation of the national mental health Strategy.

NCAG wishes to thank:

- \* Workshop participants who readily shared their experience and valuable ideas with us.
- \* The State and Territory Consumer/Community Advisory Groups who gave us so much enthusiastic help and support in organising the workshops, and
- \* Judy Hardy, Consultant to NCAG and David Plant, Executive Officer, Australian Psychiatric Disability Coalition who conducted the workshops on behalf of and in close liaison with NCAG.

So where do we go from here?

NCAG is currently developing a plan of action to address the main issues arising from the workshops.

Just let me say thankyou to everyone for remembering that NCAG is only as strong as the sum total of your voices ... thankyou for making those voices so strong.

TRISH GODDARD

Chairperson

National Community Advisory Group on Mental Health.

**MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP ON MENTAL  
HEALTH**

Trisha Goddard	Chairperson
Leonie Manns	New South Wales (Deputy Chairperson)
Cliff Braddon	Queensland
Simon Champ	Independent
Merinda Epstein	Independent
Tony Fowke	Western Australia
Mick Green	Northern Territory
Tina Hatchett	South Australia
Bob Linford	Australian Capital Territory
Ethnee Shields	Tasmania
Vacant Position	Victoria

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**APPENDIX 1**  
**WORKSHOP TIMETABLE**

<b>City</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>
Melbourne	Feb 14	9.30 - 4.00
	Feb 15	9.30 - 4.00
Launceston	Feb 16	9.30 - 4.00
Hobart	Feb 17	9.00 - 3.30
Albury	Feb 18	9.00 - 3.30
Canberra	Feb 21	9.30 - 4.00
Sydney	Feb 22	9.30 - 4.00
	Feb 23	9.30 - 4.00
Lismore	Feb 24	11.30 - 5.00
Brisbane	Feb 28	9.30 - 4.00
Townsville	Mar 2	9.30 - 4.00
Alice Springs	Mar 7	12.00 - 6.00
Darwin	Mar 9	9.30 - 4.00
Broome	Mar 10	9.30 - 4.00
Port Augusta	Mar 14	11.00 - 3.30
Adelaide	Mar 15	9.30 - 4.00
Perth	Mar 17	9.30 - 4.00

## APPENDIX 2

### MEETING PROGRAM

**9.30 - 10.30            INTRODUCTION**

**10.30 - 11.45           WORKSHOPS BLOCK 1**

All participants to consider in small groups:

What does your group see as the priority issues for this state? Can you prioritise them in order of importance?

**11.45 - 12.30           PLENARY 1: REPORT BACK**

**12.30 - 1.30            LUNCH**

**1.30 - 2.45            WORKSHOPS BLOCK 2**

Workshop topics will be determined by reference to priorities identified in Workshop Block 1. Questions to be asked are:

What needs to be done? Who needs to do it? e.g. Government (which and which Department), non-government organisations, Consumers, Carers, Private Sector...? How can we best be part of the process?

**2.45 - 3.00            AFTERNOON TEA**

**3.00 - 4.00            PLENARY 2: REPORT BACK AND SUMMARISE**

There will be a recall of the question:

**How can we be part of the process?**

## APPENDIX 3

### ATTENDANCE AT WORKSHOPS

#### Melbourne

##### Day 1

Attended by approximately 80 people of whom the majority, (approximately 75%) were consumers. Only small numbers of health professionals attended.

A specific group was established to look at priorities for examining issues from a carers perspective. Only three people elected to participate in this group.

##### Day 2

Attended by approximately 60 people of whom approximately 60% were consumers. Specific issues of complaint in relation to the Federal Government Discussion Paper were raised very vocally by non-government organisation service providers.

#### Launceston

Attended by approximately 30 people, the majority of whom were carers, however at least 40% were consumers.

#### Hobart

Attendance of 70, the majority carers and some health professionals.

#### Albury

Attendance of 27, primarily service providers (including some from the intellectual disability area) and carers. The small number of consumers present made significant contributions.

#### Canberra

Attendance of approximately 35 at various times during the day, including a group of 7 student nurses with a tutor. Consumers very much in the minority.

#### Penrith

Attendance of approximately 35, including approximately 10 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who made specific recommendations in a number of areas but cautioned against the use of these without much wider consultation.

### Sydney

Attendance of 47. Mix of Service Providers, non-government organisations, carers and some consumers. Service Providers have not brought consumers with them.

### Lismore

Attendance of 55. Good mix of consumers, carers, service provides. All participated very vocally in the workshops.

### Brisbane

Attendance of 130+. Unique situation - how to manage such large numbers. Twelve workshops conducted simultaneously. People stayed in the same groups both morning and afternoon and were able to develop very specific recommendations.

### Townsville

Attendance of 42. Eight groups run, four in the morning and four in the afternoon.

### Alice Springs

31 people attended. About 80% were professionals although most were from areas other than direct mental health service delivery. There was a small group of consumers and a smaller group of carers.

### Darwin

Consumers and Carers were solidly represented in the 31 who attended.

### Broome

The group in Broome was small with only six people in attendance. Discussion of the issues affecting isolated areas was vibrant.

### Pt. Augusta

Attendance of 26 was drawn from the Pt Augusta, Whyalla, Pt. Pirie areas. There was a mix of community service workers, consumers and carers.

### Adelaide

92 people attended in Adelaide. There was strong representation from consumers and carers and community workers from a range of areas of interest.

### Perth

A total of 112 registered on the day.