

Year 2 – 2014/15

5. 30 September 2014 – Exploring lived experience of the NDIS in the first year (service providers described consumer, carer and organisational experiences). The NSW Ombudsman attended to explain their new roles and functions in relation to the NDIS.

6. 16 December 2014 – Strategic Advisor to the NDIS, Eddie Bartnick, attended to discuss the work of the NDIA's Mental Health Sector Reference Group and also thinking about Information, Linkages and Capacity-building (Tier 2 of the NDIS). Partners in Recovery (PIR) and SVDP Ability Links described their work.

7. 17 March 2015 – Further exploration of consumer and carer participation in the NDIS though including presentation by an NDIS participant who has a psychosocial disability. Consultation regarding the NDIS ILC policy framework to form the basis of an MHCC submission.

Year 3 – 2015/16

8. 24 July 2015 – Introduction of a regular NDIS consumer update. The NSW Ombudsman attended to explore people's experiences of the NDIS. The Commonwealth Ombudsman also attended due to their interest in NDIS access experiences. Following the forum, the NSW Ombudsman held separate consultations with a group of consumers and a group of carers to further understand their experiences.

9. 17 November 2015 – Consumer update reflected on the complexities of navigating the NDIS both in terms of access and planning. MHA attended to discuss their Capacity Building Project, national directions for the NDIS and mental health, and mental health sector impacts of NDIS implementation.

10. 29 March 2016 – Consumer Update provided by a Peer Worker supporting people to access and navigate the NDIS. NDIA Assistant Mental Health Director, Mark Rosser, attended to discuss the NDIA's Mental Health Work Plan. He focused on describing the NDIA's 'Operational Access for People with Psychosocial Disability Project' and the activities that are being implemented from this work. Participant consultation to further understand people's NDIS access experiences. Consultation findings used to continue MHCC advocacy in regard to access challenges.

11. 21 June 2016 – Consumer and carer NDIS lived experience panel. Janet Meagher - consumer representative/advocate, NDIS Independent Advisory Council (IAC) and IAC representative to the NDIA Mental Health Sector Reference Group - attended. Janet reflects on the achievements of the trial for people with a psychosocial disability and joined with us to celebrate the achievements of the NSW trial.

Other activities of the Hunter CoP

The experiences of the CoP were also captured through a six monthly newsletter. These and other NDIS and mental health publications and documents are available on the MHCC (website URL below).

NSW NDIS psychosocial disability access

By the end of the trial more than 600 people with a primary psychosocial disability will have accessed the NDIS in NSW. At the end of March 2016, only 9% of people accessing the NDIS in the NSW trial site had a primary psychosocial disability. This is lower than Productivity Commission's initial estimates of 13.9% and compares poorly with Victoria who are meeting this benchmark.

At the end of June 2016, 555 Hunter NDIS and Mental Health CoP participants had contributed to 11 forums. This was mostly community sector workers from both within and outside of the trial site.

Local discussion to identify options to continue Hunter NDIS and mental health CoP activities is encouraged.

Keep Up-to-date

For more information about the NDIS and mental health/psychosocial disability visit:

<http://www.mhcc.org.au/policy-advocacy-reform/influence-and-reform/ndis-and-mental-healthpsychosocial-disability.aspx>.