

1 June 2012

Andrew Constance, MP
Minister for Ageing and Minister for Disability Services
Level 34 Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
Sydney NSW 2000

office@constance.minister.nsw.gov.au

Subject: Living Life My Way

Dear Minister

The Mental Health Coordinating Council (MHCC) is the peak body representing community managed organisations (CMOs) in NSW. Our members provide a range of clinical, psychosocial, education and information resources and services with a focus on recovery orientated practice. MHCC's membership consists of over 250 CMOs whose business or activity is wholly or in part related to the promotion and/or delivery of services for the wellbeing and recovery of people affected by mental health problems.

Working in partnership with both State and Commonwealth governments to promote recovery and social inclusion for people affected by mental illness, we participate extensively in mental health policy and sector development and facilitate linkages between government, non-government and private sectors. MHCC also manage and conduct research projects and develop collaborative programs on behalf of the sector. We are a Registered Training Organisation delivering nationally accredited mental health training and professional development to the workforce.

In response to the NSW Government's request for submissions concerning the expected changes to the disability service system as outlined in the Discussion Paper, *Living Life My Way: Putting people with a disability at the centre of decision making about their supports in NSW*, April 2012 the Mental Health Coordinating Council (MHCC) wish to provide you with a copy of our Discussion Paper, *Self-Directed Funding and the Community Managed Mental Health Sector: Opportunities and Challenges*, November 2011, which clearly identifies the key issues that are of particular interest to the community managed mental health sector.

MHCC thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission and would welcome and opportunity to meet with you and your representatives at your earliest convenience to discuss how the Person Centred Approach in NSW will interface with the self- directed funding model as proposed under the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Yours sincerely



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