



## **MEDIA RELEASE 4 APRIL 2018**

### **CMHA calls for a national mental health consumer peak**

Community Mental Health Australia (CMHA) President Liz Crowther added the organisation's support for the establishment of a national mental health consumer peak.

'A significant missing part of the mental health sector is an established and funded mental health consumer peak that provides a united national voice for mental health consumers'.

'The mental health sector is undergoing a significant period of reform which is about giving consumers choice in the care they receive and creating a system that is person-centred. However, a stand-alone organisation for mental health consumers is not there to be a part of these reforms', Ms Crowther said.

'There has been a renewed focus on the importance of grass-roots, lived experience of mental health being part of the reform process. CMHA believes now is the time to establish a national mental health consumer peak as a central part of how policies and programs are developed, in the true spirit of co-design.'

'In order for the various reforms occurring in mental health, including the NDIS and PHNs, to deliver the benefits that it can bring to the lives of people living with mental health conditions, it is vital that government works in genuine partnership with all parts of the sector, but particularly consumers,' Ms Crowther said.

'CMHA acknowledges and applauds the contributions, commitment and hard work of past and current mental health consumer representatives'.

'An established and funded mental health consumer peak would benefit all of us in the sector - government, non-government organisations, service providers, health professionals – and we call on the government to support its establishment'.

Media contact – Amanda Bresnan 0417 193 407

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