

5 December 2016

### **CMHA welcomes Parliamentary inquiry into mental health services in the NDIS**

Community Mental Health Australia (CMHA) has welcomed the announcement by the Joint Standing Committee on the NDIS for an inquiry into the provision of services in the NDIS for people with a mental illness.

Liz Crowther, CMHA President, has said that CMHA have become increasingly concerned about the needs of people living with a mental illness who now receive Federally funded mental health services but will be ineligible for the NDIS.

“Funding for a number of Federally funded mental health programs is being removed and placed in the NDIS and a significant number of the people who now receive these services won’t be eligible for the NDIS. These programs have been in existence for over a decade and funding being taken away will have a devastating impact for consumers and their families and carers”.

“A growing number of people will not get their community-based rehabilitation needs met, not just as we move to the NDIS but into the future. We are increasingly concerned about what will happen to these people”, Ms Crowther said.

“CMHA remains committed to the NDIS and the benefits that it can bring to the lives of people living with a mental illness. We believe it has the potential to change the lives of thousands of Australians, providing them with individualised packages to support their needs”.

“However our state and territory members have been telling us about the many challenges they have been experiencing with the NDIS and how the rehabilitative focus of community-based mental health is not fitting into a system designed for disabilities”.

“CMHA is strongly advocating for options to be developed for funding services for people living with a mental illness who are ineligible for the NDIS and currently access Federally funded programs, ensuring their rehabilitation and disability support needs are met whether they are eligible or not for the NDIS”, Ms Crowther said.

“CMHA is also concerned with the directive by the Australian Government to the Primary Health Networks, who are also receiving substantial federal mental health program funding, to not commission psychosocial services. PHNs must be able to commission the services they need that are reflected in their planning and needs assessment”.

“CMHA welcomes this inquiry and looks forward to engaging with Committee to thoroughly investigate and examine these vital issues so that people living a mental illness do not fall through the gaps”.

Submissions to the inquiry close on 27 February 2017 and more information is available at [http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Joint/National\\_Disability\\_Insurance\\_Scheme/MentalHealth](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/National_Disability_Insurance_Scheme/MentalHealth)

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