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**CMHA first community-led conference on mental health and the NDIS - working towards a good life**

Community Mental Health Australia (CMHA) President Liz Crowther hailed the opening of the two-day CMHA conference as a step towards the sector working to achieve the potential of the NDIS to deliver a good life for people living with psychosocial disability.

“The CMHA National NDIS Mental Health Conference is the first community-led and run conference on mental health and the NDIS to be held in Australia. The conference sold-out, which demonstrates the significant interest and need from the sector for this type of event. It marks an important step in the community managed mental health sector leading the way to explore and develop the potential the NDIS offers”, Ms Crowther said.

“The theme of the conference is ‘towards a good life’ and the sector recognises the significant opportunity the NDIS presents. It is vital that governments and all agencies involved with the NDIS work in partnership with the community managed mental health sector to develop solutions to concerns and issues that have emerged and learn from the lessons of implementation sites”.

“The recommendations that have come out of inquiries examining the implementation, costs and pricing of the NDIS including the Productivity Commission NDIS Costs inquiry and the Australian Parliament Joint Standing Committee on the NDIS inquiry on services for people with psychosocial disability, will be top of mind in the discussions that take place through the conference. As will the next Federal Budget, which will be key in continuing to address and progress the implementation of the NDIS”.

“CMHA’s Federal Pre-budget Submission for 2018-19 highlights recommendations made in the inquiries, along with issues CMHA has identified in various submissions. These include implementing the Productivity Commission recommendation to establish an independent price regulation body for the NDIS; develop an alternative gateway for people with psychosocial disability to access the NDIS; and undertaking a review of the NDIS Act. Each of these initiatives would identify, address and progress the NDIS for the benefit of people with psychosocial disability and all NDIS participants”, Ms Crowther said.

“I look forward to the outcomes from the CMHA National NDIS Mental Health Conference and to continuing to work with the community managed mental health sector, consumers, carers and Government’s at all levels on progressing these outcomes and ensuring the NDIS fulfils its potential”.

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