Application for the Mental Health Community Support Services (MHCSS) Program Evaluation Steering Committee

Closing date *extended*: 9am Monday 22nd March 2021

**The Queensland Centre for Mental Health Research (QCMHR) are inviting people with lived experience of the Queensland Health’s Mental Health Community Support Services (MHCSS) programs within the last 12-24 months to join a Steering Committee to support an evaluation project.**

Queensland Centre for Mental Health Research

The Queensland Health Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Branch has commissioned Queensland Centre for Mental Health Research (QCMHR) to evaluate the four Mental Health Community Support Services (MHCSS) programs delivered by non-government organisations, in order to inform their future design, delivery and sustainability.

What are the MHCSS programs?

Mental Health Community Support Services (MHCSS) are non-clinical recovery-focused psychosocial wraparound support services delivered one-to-one, peer-to-peer or group-based depending on the person’s recovery needs. They are underpinned by:

* local Hospital and Health Services (HHSs) mental health teams providing clinical care as required, and
* non-government organisations (NGOs) specialising in mental health which provide psychosocial support.

NGOs across Queensland’s Hospital and Health Services (HHSs) deliver these support services within an individual’s local community. Support is structured, purposeful, and tailored to meet their recovery needs and goals. There are four different programs included in Queensland’s MHCSS:

* **The *Individual Recovery Support Program (IRSP)*** is for individuals experiencing a severe mental illness, aged 18 years and over, whom are accessing (or have recently, within the last three months) accessed mental health clinical care through a Hospital and Health Service and have been referred by the HHS.
* **The *Group Based Peer Recovery Support Program (GBPRSP)*** is for individuals linked from the Individual Recovery Support Program (described above). This program gives people access to group-based peer-led activities complementary to the support provided through the Individual Recovery Support Program.
* **The *Individual Recovery Support -Transition from Correctional Facilities Program (IRS -TCFP)*** is for individuals experiencing severe mental illness, aged 18 years and over, and about to be released from a Queensland adult correctional facility and have been referred by Prison Mental Health Service.
* **The *Individual at Risk of Homelessness Program (IRHP)***is eligible to individuals experiencing severe mental illness, aged 18 years and over, living in a boarding house, crisis accommodation or hostel.

**Further information can be accessed at this link:**

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/clinical-staff/mental-health/community-services>

Purpose

The MHCSS Evaluation Steering Group members will be asked to read briefing documents and give the research team feedback within the meetings on:

* the research plan (March/April 2020),
* the interview questions (March/April 2021),
* the early findings (August/September 2021),
* and the overall key findings, conclusions and recommendations that come from the full evaluation (December 2021).

Existing members of the MHCSS Evaluation Steering Group include representatives from:

* The research team,
* Queensland Health Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Branch (MHAODB),
* Brisbane North Primary Health Network,
* Queensland Forensic Mental Health Service,
* Queensland Mental Health Commission,
* Queensland Alliance for Mental Health.

Additional terms of reference can be provided on request.

Role of the consumer

Members who have lived experience of the MHCSS program (s)will have equal participation on the Steering Group and contribute their lived experience (including knowledge of the experience of mental illness and navigating health systems and services) to guide the evaluation of these services being delivered across Queensland.

The role of the successful applicants will be to attend and actively participate in all Steering Group meetings online once a month via (video conference) Microsoft Teams, between April 2020 and December 2021, to support the success of the evaluation project by:

• informing the evaluation process and final framework,

• informing the recruitment of stakeholders (including people with lived experience) to the project,

• identifying important themes that come from the interim findings and results.

Other activities include, pre-meeting reading, pre-briefings, discussions, provision of feedback and advice, as appropriate.

Who is it for?

This opportunity would ideally suit a mental health consumer who has:

* committee experience, either partnering with Queensland Health or within a Non-government Organisation,
* an interest and some knowledge of Queensland’s community mental health service system,
* previous (within the last 24 months) or existing consumers of the MHCSS programs are strongly encouraged to apply.

Time and location

Steering Group meetings for 2021 have been scheduled monthly (to start) for an hour in duration, during the first week of each month.

Additional meetings may be arranged as needed. Due to COVID-19 and for social distancing purposes, meetings will be held remotely via (video conference) Microsoft Teams.

Remuneration and Support

Consumer and carer members will be remunerated for their time consistent with [Health Consumers Queensland’s remuneration position statement](http://www.hcq.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Consumer-Remuneration-Rates-Dec-2015.pdf):

• $187 for meetings 4 hours and under (including pre-reading)

The Steering Committee secretariat or support person will provide orientation, debriefing post steering committee meetings and supports both prior and post meetings as required for the successful representatives as required.

There may be occasions where some of the topics discussed within meetings may trigger some feelings of distress for consumers. The Principal Investigator (Dr Zoe Rutherford) will provide further information about the distress protocol at the orientation and pre-briefing.

How to apply

**Please complete this consumer application form and return to****consumer@hcq.org.au**by **9am Monday 1st March 2021.**

For assistance please contact Health Consumers Queensland via consumer@hcq.org.au or by phone on 07 3012 9090.

**Consumer Application Form**

Mental Health Community Support Services (MHCSS) Program Evaluation Steering Group Committee

Full name:

Preferred phone number:

Email:

Postal address:

Postcode:

* By completing this application, I consent for my details to be added to the Health Consumers Queensland network database YES | NO
* I would like to receive email updates from Health Consumers Queensland YES | NO
* Are you happy for Health Consumers Queensland to share this form with Queensland Health as part of the process for this application? YES | NO

Please highlight any group you identify as being a part of:

* A consumer with a lived experience of accessing a Mental Health Community Support Service delivered by an NGO in Queensland.
* A carer with a lived experience of caring for a person who has accessed a Mental Health Community Support Service delivered by an NGO in Queensland.
* Living with a disability/chronic condition
* Caring for someone with a disability
* Physically isolated or transport disadvantaged
* Culturally or linguistically diverse
* From a non-English speaking background
* LGBTIQ+

Do you identify as: Aboriginal | Torres Strait Islander | Both | Prefer not to state

Are you a: Consumer | Carer

Age range: 16-24 25-29 30-39 40-49 50-59 60-69 70+

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Gender:** |  Male | Female | Intersex | Other | Prefer not to state |

Please describe any support you need to take part in this activity *(examples include support person, hearing loop, dietary requirements)*

*Your responses to the following questions only need to be a brief sentence or two*

1. Please describe your experience as a health consumer representative including committees, focus groups, surveys, governance roles, etc. *Tip: Past consumer representative positions that have similar requirements to the opportunity you’re expressing interest in. Give an indication of how long each position was for, and any relevant highlights.*

**2. Please describe any connections you have to your community (e.g. networks, groups)***Tip: Think about how this relates to the role you’re applying for.*

3. Please describe your interest in joining the MHCSS Steering Group? *Tip: Although this section usually requires the longest response, try to keep it concise. Things to consider focusing on here include:* *any past lived experience that shows your understanding of the topic, or* *any systems change that you have identified that will improve care for health consumers, and possible strategies you could share to affect that change.*

*Referee Section (if applicable)*

* Please provide contact details for a staff member from a health service or department you are currently partnering with. (we will advise if you are shortlisted before we contact your referee).

Full name:

Staff Role:

Partnering Activity (eg. Committee Chair):

Organisation:

Phone number:

Email:

Applicant Role: