

# Social Justice and Human Rights Statement

## Who We Are

The ACT Mental Health Consumer Network (The Network) is a consumer-led peak organisation representing the interests of mental health consumers in the ACT in policy and decision-making forums. The Network is committed to social justice and the inclusion of people with experience of mental illness.

## Our Vision

A community of connected voices achieving positive change.

## Ethical and Responsible Behaviour

The Network always aims to conduct business responsibly, ethically and with courage.

We respect all human rights principles aimed at promoting and protecting human rights, including the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Australian Capital Territory Human Rights Act 2004.

## Aims:

To accurately represent the interests of mental health consumers to service providers, community and government at all levels.

- To facilitate meaningful communication between mental health service providers, carers and consumers.
- To increase mental health literacy amongst consumers and service providers through participation and education.
- To give a voice to ACT mental health consumers through lobbying, education and representation.
- To empower consumers by valuing their experiences of the mental health system in the ACT.

## **Respect and trust**

The Network recognises that the reputation of any organisation is built on trust and respect.

We are committed to building and promoting a strong reputation for clear and accountable advocacy, effective leadership and development.

## **Social justice**

The Network recognises that mental illness exists within a social and economic context, which determines health and health outcomes. Societal attitudes towards those experiencing mental illness are one of the important factors influencing the recovery of mental health consumers.

The Network believes in the promotion of social justice, equity, access and a compassionate society with good mental health and wellbeing as its primary goal.

## **Meaningful inclusion**

The Network values and respects the lived experience of individuals and acknowledges that individuals are the experts in their own experiences. The Network endeavours to ensure ample opportunities for meaningful inclusion and engagement for consumers in the Territory and surrounding regions.

## **Feedback and Complaints**

If you believe the Network may have acted in a way, which is not consistent with human rights principles, please raise your concerns with the Network. Further information can be found on the feedback and complaints form.