



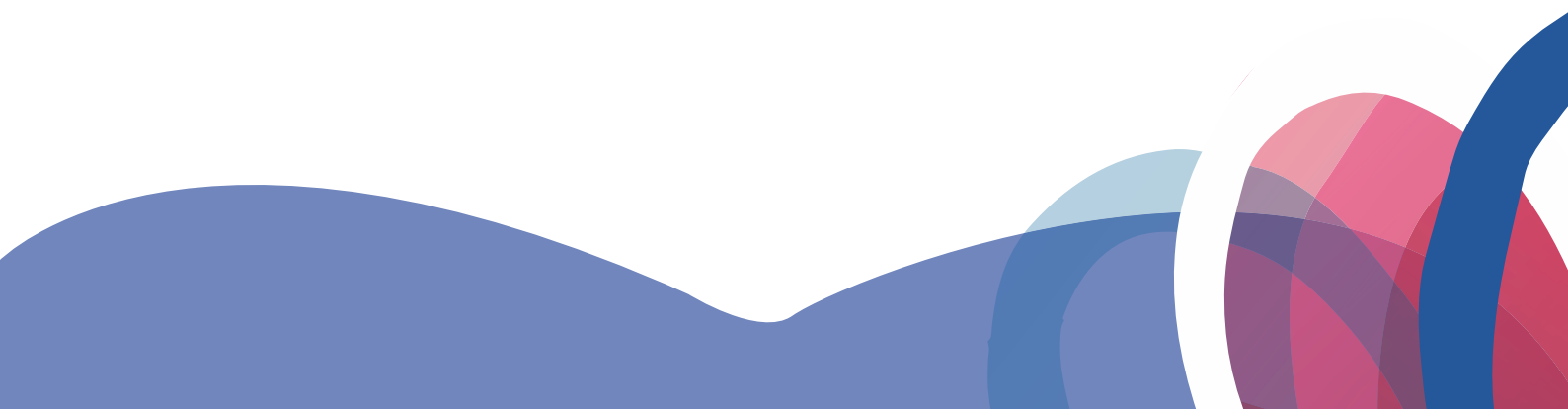
ACT
Mental Health
Consumer Network

Annual Report 2022-23



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Vision, Statement of Purpose, Values & Guiding Principles

Vision

A community of connected voices achieving positive change.

Statement of purpose

To advocate all means to improve and enhance services, systems and practices for consumers in the ACT by

- discovering and promoting the collective voice;
- facilitating and supporting consumer participation at all levels of decision-making; and
- ensuring a commitment to consumer driven recovery.

Values

- Empowerment
- Respect
- Courage
- Social justice
- Meaningful inclusion

Guiding Principles

Our guiding principles reflect our values of empowerment, respect, courage, social justice and meaningful inclusion. They also reflect what our Board, members and staff expect of each other in their work together and how we work with others in representative, advocacy and collaborative capacities.

Value of lived experience

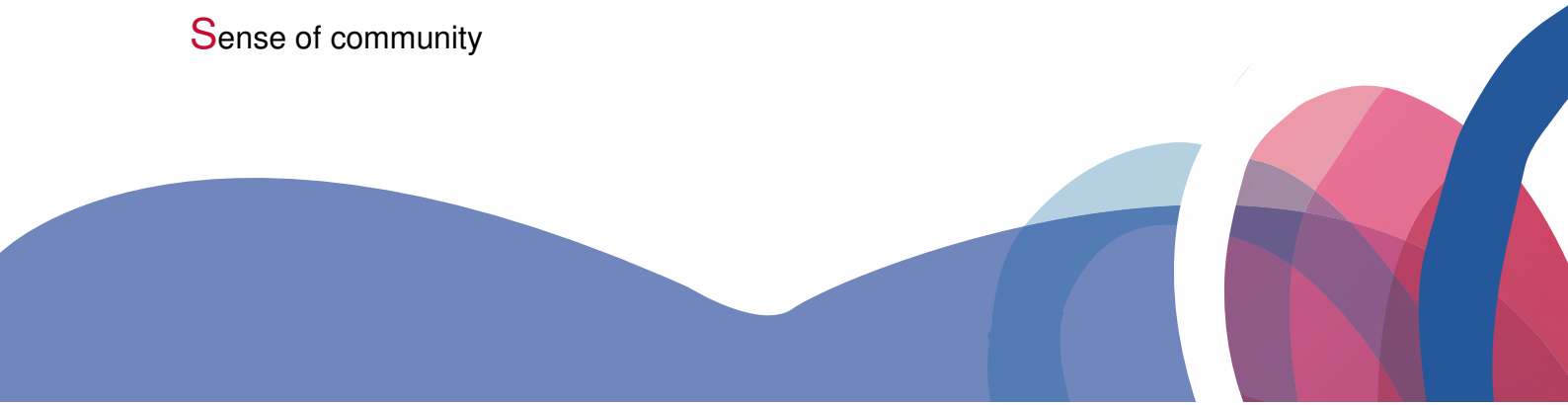
Open dialogue and advocacy

Increased self-awareness

Consumer-driven recovery

Ensure social justice and human rights are upheld

Sense of community



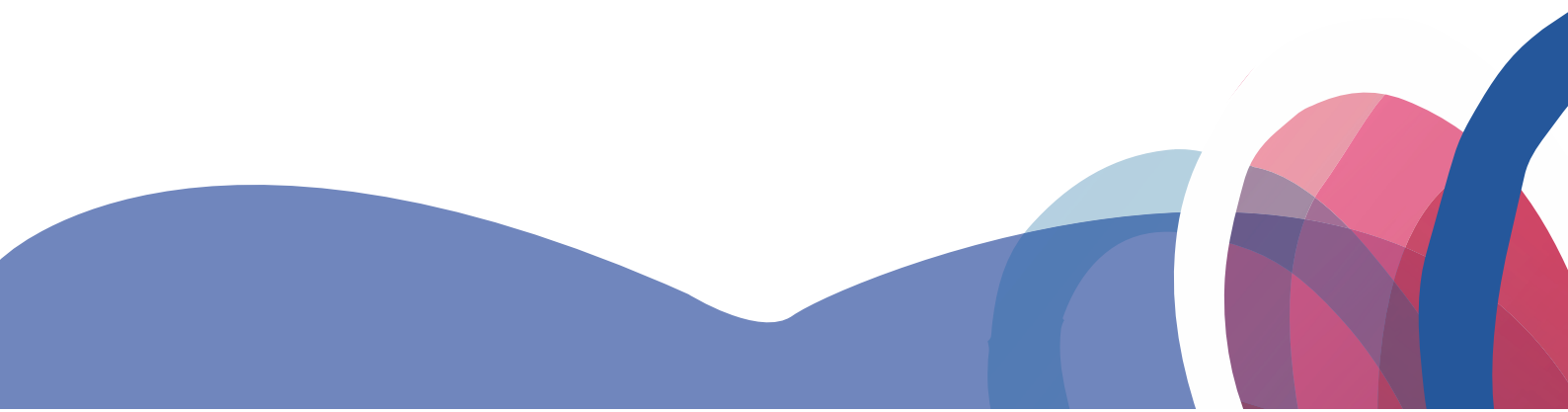
Board & Workers

Board 2022-23

Bianca Rossetti	Chair
Lachlan Atyeo	Deputy Chair
Maree Pavloudis	Treasurer
Kathryn Dwan	Secretary
Jenny Adams	Ordinary Member
Rose Beard	Ordinary Member
Bridget Berry	Ordinary Member
Chris Corcoran	Ordinary Member
Phillip Green	Ordinary Member
Lucas Spensberger	Ordinary Member
Thi Nha Tran	Ordinary Member

Staff

Dalane Drexler	Chief Executive Officer
Jennifer Nixon	Program Manager
	Policy and Participation Coordinator
Dia Andrews	Policy and Participation Coordinator
Petra Kallay	Community Education Coordinator
Terri Warner	Education Officer (until November 2022)
Ben Martin	Education Officer (from November 2022)
Eva Damarjati	Consumer Representative Program Officer
Valan Phoenix	Administration Coordinator
Jo Hargense	Drop-In Officer



Peer Co-Facilitators

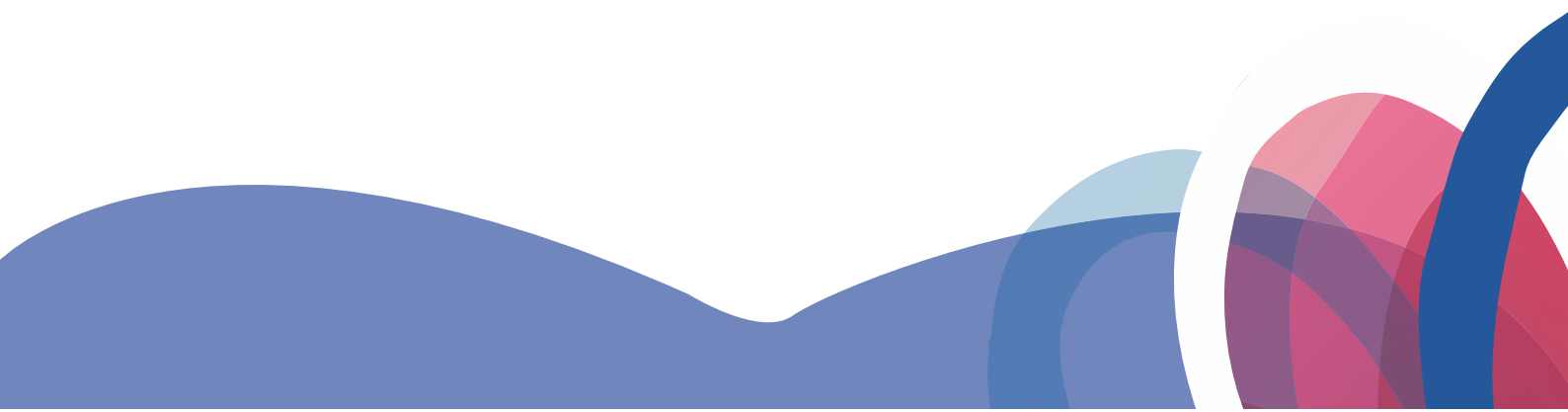
Jenny Adams	Maree Pavloudis	Bianca Rossetti
Thi Nha Tran	Terri Warner	

Policy Reference Group

Jenny Adams	Tina Campbell	Chris Corcoran
Caroline Davidson	Jane Grace	Fay Holden
Matthew Martin	Ben Matthews	Katie Price
Bianca Rossetti	Lucas Spensberger	Thi Nha Tran
Lew Ching Yip		

Consumer Representatives

Jenny Adams	Dia Andrews	Rose Beard
Elise Crouch	Jane Grace	Patricia Green
Luke Lake	Matthew Martin	Deahne McIntyre
Maree Pavloudis	Katie Price	Bianca Rossetti
Erin Stewart	Paul Thompson	Thi Nha Tran
Terri Warner		



Chair's Report

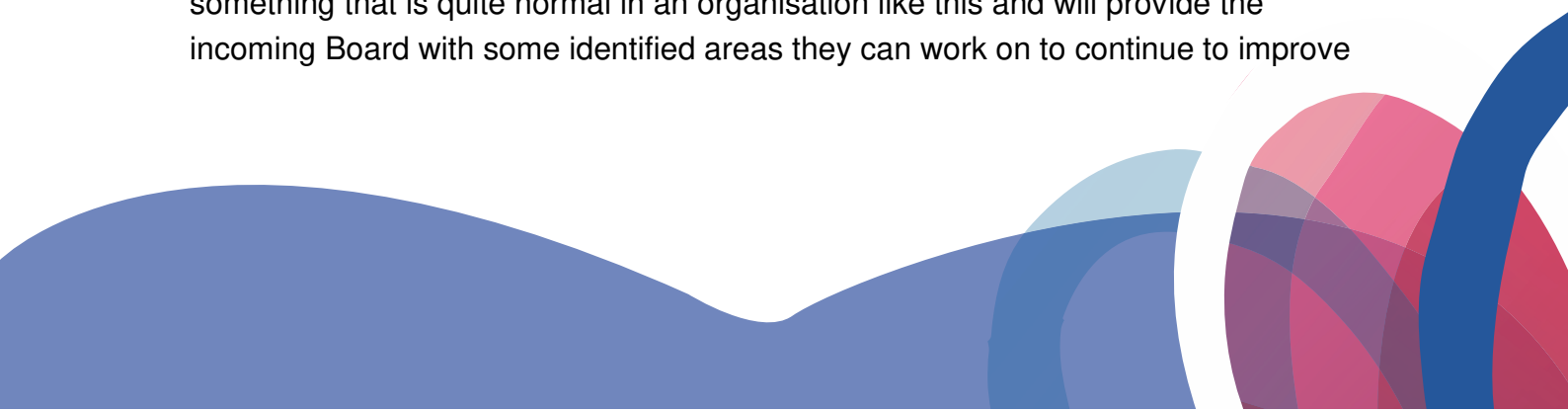
As another year draws to a close, I took some time to reflect on the work that the Network staff and volunteers have achieved. The last few years, for many, have been and continue to be some of the most difficult we have faced in over a generation. We live and operate in a world that is very unusual still; in part much of the work of the Network is still done in a pandemic informed way, with virtual and online options being regularly used. In part we have also seen a general push to return to life before the pandemic with face-to-face meetings, forums and work becoming more of the norm again. This often poses some real challenges with ensuring that all voices are heard when trying to operate across mixed modes of engagement. However, I am also pleased to acknowledge that the staff and volunteers of the Network have continued to push through these challenges.

Our relationships with stakeholders and our funders remain strong and positive, with the organisation being granted a further five years of core funding. This will bring our future regular funding agreement into line with the current ACT funding policy cycle and provide some security of income for the next few years. The organisation has made several formal submissions to government on several issues that have impacted consumers and consumer rights. We have also engaged with media to represent the consumer voice on a range of issues that we saw in the ACT this year.

We have also seen an increase in the volunteer base of the organisation by a significant (50%!) margin. This has allowed the Network to continue its mission to improve the mental health system for consumers through:

- Formal Consumer Representation
- Engagement in Policy Reference Groups
- Greater engagement with consumers at our Policy consultation forums

The Board has also been busy over the last 12 months. We saw a number of people new to the Network join the board at the last Annual General Meeting, and it has been wonderful to have some new life and perspectives guide the organisation over the last year. The Board along with the CEO and staff of the Network spent some time earlier this year reviewing and updating our strategic plan. In line with current practice around good governance, the Board also conducted a formal self-evaluation of the effectiveness of the Board over the last 12 months, which was largely positive. Whilst there were some areas identified where we can improve, this is also something that is quite normal in an organisation like this and will provide the incoming Board with some identified areas they can work on to continue to improve



the organisation. The CEO role has also been evaluated by the Board over the last 12 months and has been positioned to ensure that it remains an effective role for the coming needs of the Network.

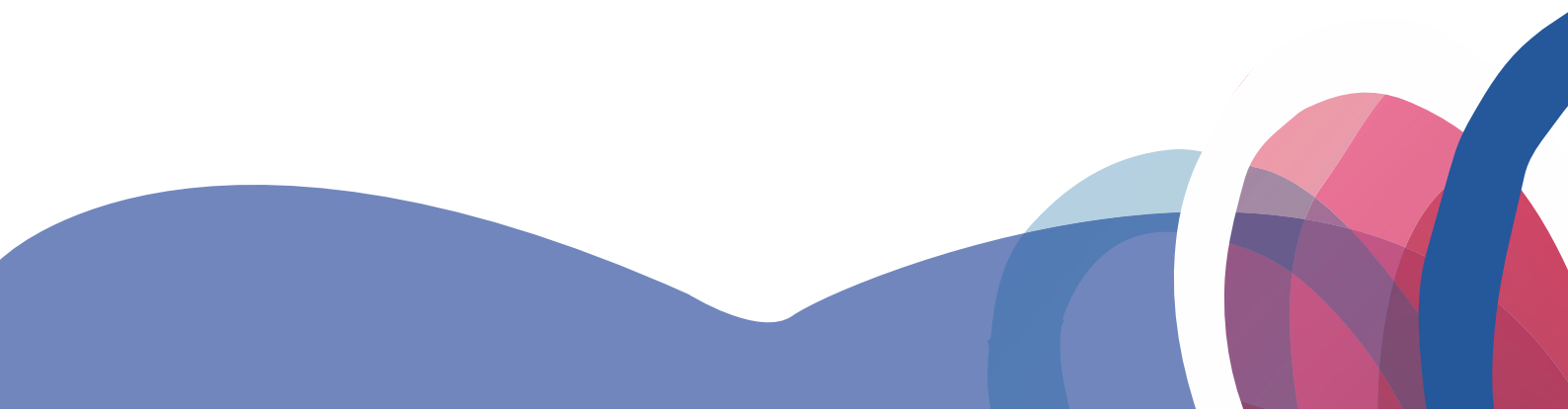
Lastly, the Network has again achieved Certificate Level accreditation from the Australian Service Excellence Standards (ASES), which certifies that the Board and the organisation have met national stands in quality around our systems, policies and practice. This a wonderful outcome and provides good evidence that the organisation is being effective in meeting its goals.

For anyone who is reading this, if you would like to be more involved with the Network, I would strongly encourage you to get involved at any level – from governance all the way through to self-advocacy training. As we continue to see mental health reform in the ACT over the next few years, it is important to ensure that the consumer voice is a strong part of the conversation moving forward and shaping a mental health system that is trauma informed and recovery focused!

In closing, I would like to thank my fellow Board members for helping to continue to guide the Network over the last year. I would also like to the CEO, staff and volunteers for their continued commitment to supporting consumer rights and moving the work of the organisation forward. Your efforts are what makes a difference.

Lachlan Atyeo

A/g Chair



Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to present the Treasurer's Report for the financial year ending 30 June 2023. It has been an eventful year for the Network, marked by significant achievements and positive developments. We are proud to share our progress and financial standing with you in this annual report.

Grant Management

This year marked the beginning of our new 5-year grant with the ACT Government (Health), following completing the ACT Commissioning process, which has provided us with increased resources and opportunities. We have successfully managed Consumer Representative reimbursements for Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drugs Services (MHJHADS) committees throughout the year commencing in August, streamlining and simplifying the process for both volunteers and staff on both sides. This improvement has enhanced efficiency and strengthened our relationships with Consumer Representatives.

Digital Stories Project

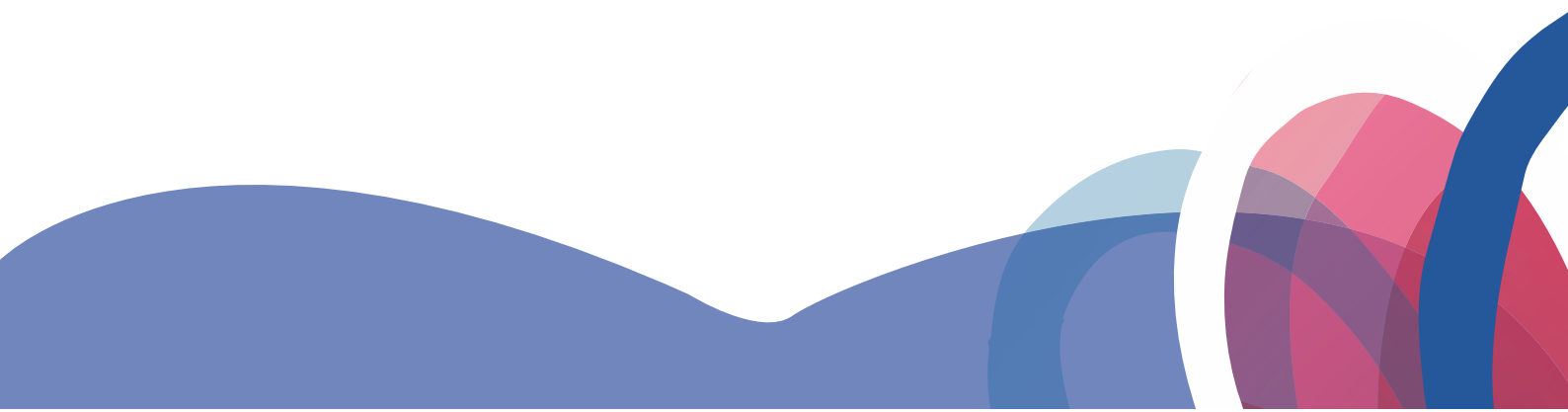
We are excited to report that our digital stories project is nearing completion. This initiative has allowed us to capture and share powerful narratives that highlight the lived experiences of consumers in our community. The project aims to raise awareness, reduce stigma and foster understanding and empathy among our stakeholders.

Website Enhancement

Our new website has been a significant milestone in our digital presence. We have implemented direct links to our database, enabling seamless integration for event management and other administrative processes. This enhancement has improved accessibility and streamlined our operations, providing a user-friendly experience for our stakeholders.

Stationery Refresh

As part of our commitment to maintaining a professional image, we refreshed and updated our stationery. The fresh design reflects the Network's identity and aligns with our branding guidelines. The stationery has enhanced our communications and strengthened our visual identity.



Phone System Upgrade

We successfully implemented a new phone system, improving our communication capabilities and ensuring efficient connectivity with our stakeholders. This upgrade has enabled better coordination among our team members who continue working both in the office and remotely, and enhanced our responsiveness to inquiries and requests.

Financial Position

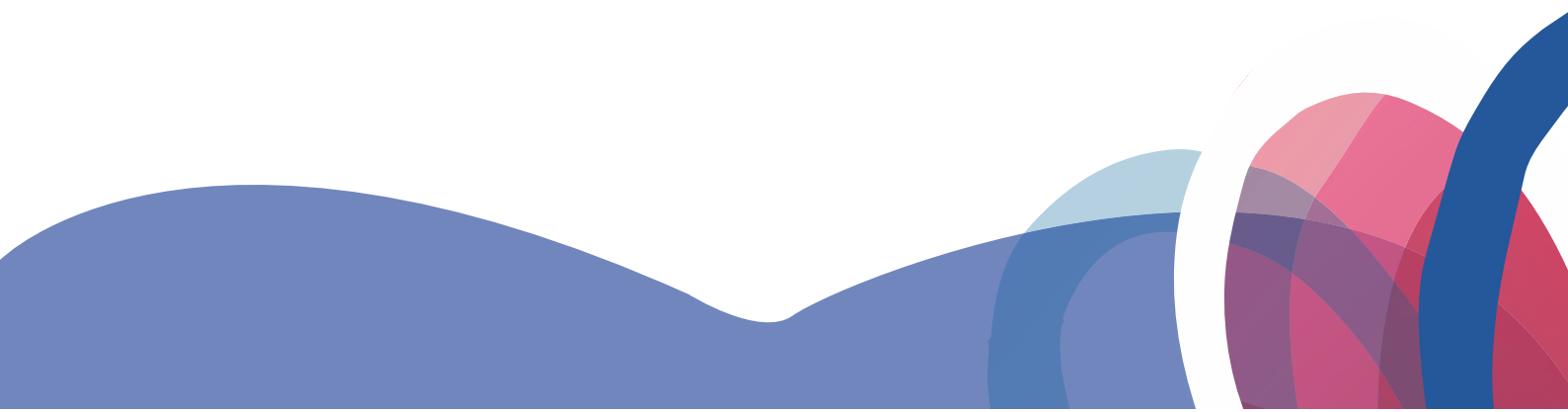
We are pleased to report that we finished the year in a sound financial position. Our financial statements, which can be found at the end of this Annual Report, demonstrate our commitment to responsible financial management. We have diligently managed our resources to maximise impact and ensure the sustainability of our programs and initiatives.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our dedicated workers and stakeholders whose support and collaboration have contributed to our achievements. Together, we have made significant strides toward our vision and continue to make a positive difference in the lives of consumers in the ACT.

Thank you for your support. We look forward to another successful year ahead.

Maree Pavloudis

Treasurer



Chief Executive Officer's Report

This past year has been a testament to the dedication and efforts of our workers, both paid and unpaid, who have worked tirelessly in advocating for mental health consumers in often challenging circumstances. I would like to express gratitude to all our workers who have shown strong commitment to consumer causes throughout the year. Your dedication and compassion have been the driving force behind our achievements.

Our Board has continued to work hard to achieve our goals as set out in our Strategic Plan and funding grants. A special thank you goes out to our Executive Committee, who have worked diligently on several major tasks throughout the year. Your guidance has helped to shape the Network's direction and success.

I would like to extend appreciation to our Consumer Representatives and Policy Reference Group (PRG) members. Your valuable contributions to the Network and the mental health sector as a whole have been extensive and broad reaching. Your lived experiences and unique perspectives bring depth and authenticity to our systemic advocacy work. Your voices are vital in shaping policies, programs and services that truly reflect the needs and aspirations of mental health consumers.

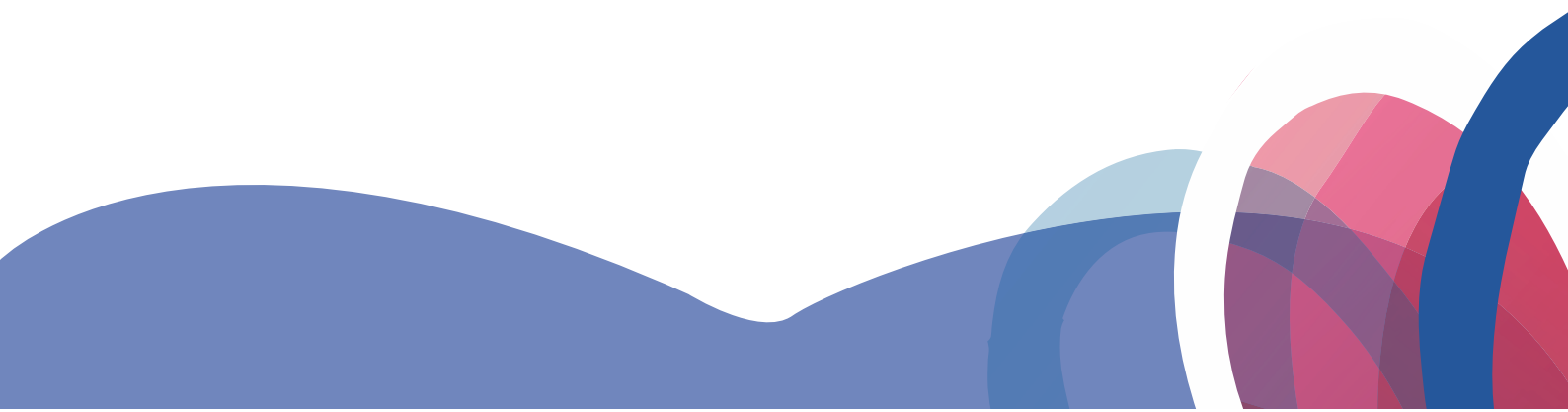
I would also like to acknowledge our core staffing team, whose stability has been a testament to our strong workplace culture and commitment to the consumer causes we champion. Your dedication and collaborative spirit have created an environment where innovation, growth and positive change thrive. Together, we have fostered a workplace that values and supports the wellbeing of our team while driving impactful change in the mental health landscape.

As we reflect on the past year's accomplishments, challenges and collaborations, I am inspired by the collective efforts of our team and the impact we have made. We remain steadfast in our commitment to improving mental health outcomes, reducing stigma, and advocating for a more inclusive and supportive society.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to our members, supporters and partners for your support throughout the year. Your many contributions have supported us to make a real difference in the lives of mental health consumers.

Dalane Drexler

Chief Executive Officer



Australian Service Excellence Standards Accreditation Certificate



Australian Service
Excellence Standards

**ACT Mental Health
Consumer Network Inc.**

achieved

Accreditation
Certificate Level

S Sansome

Susan Sansome

Quality Programs Manager

Community Investment & Support

Department of Human Services



Period of Accreditation

24 October 2022 – 24 October 2025

Community Education Program Report

The Network's Community Education Program (CEP) offers free training to members and the community on self-advocacy, consumer representation and mental health topics. The purpose of the program is to support participants to develop their confidence and skills to self-advocate and participate in systemic advocacy.

At the Network, we believe that lived experience is invaluable. That's why we make sure that our members' needs are heard and reflected in every aspect of the CEP, from selecting training topics, to design, development, and facilitation - our members are crucial at every stage of the process.

The Community Education Program consists of:

Self-Advocacy training – for consumers to learn their rights and develop skills to speak up for their rights and needs.

Consumer Representation training - to develop skills to become a Consumer Representative and participate in systemic change.

CRP Masterclasses - ongoing skills development for Consumer Representative volunteers.

Co-Facilitation Training - to develop knowledge and skills to co-facilitate CEP workshops. In 2022-23 workshops were co-facilitated with a consumer facilitator who completed this training.

Mentoring training - for experienced Consumer Representatives to develop skills to support new Consumer Representative volunteers.

In addition, from time to time we will arrange for external facilitators to provide training to meet specialised needs identified by our volunteers. For example, workshops were facilitated by Melanie Greenhalgh (Collective Wisdom Coaching and Consulting) and Mental Illness Education ACT (MIEACT).

We're always looking for ways to better support our members and help them develop their skills in various ways. Whether it's becoming consumer reps, mentors, or co-facilitators, we want to make sure that our members have the tools they need to succeed.

Here are some ways that we did this in the 2022-23...



Facilitating training using a hybrid approach: This has made training more accessible and more effective for consumers. This format made it possible for learners to participate despite being unwell, with one even attending online from their bed in hospital. On average, in the Self-Advocacy/Consumer Representation training facilitated in March-May 2023, half of the participants attended online for each session, with different participants switching between face-to-face and online delivery depending on their needs on a particular week. The hybrid training approach is a great tool that allows people to continue to attend training, despite life circumstances. We hope that the convenience and flexibility of this approach will enable more to attend and complete training as time goes on.

“I liked the hybrid training experience. I was able to attend mostly in person and was still able to attend when I was sick. This was a bonus. The instructor deftly managed to allow speakers from home and in person to have adequate talking time.”

Facilitating workshops for consumer reps and consumers

CRP Masterclasses –Topics included: Health Literacy, Self-Care, Writing Skills – How to write effective feedback, Safe life-experience sharing (facilitated by Melanie Greenhalgh from Collective Wisdom Coaching).

Self-Advocacy training: This 5-week course was facilitated with a co-facilitator in a hybrid format, with 11 participants.

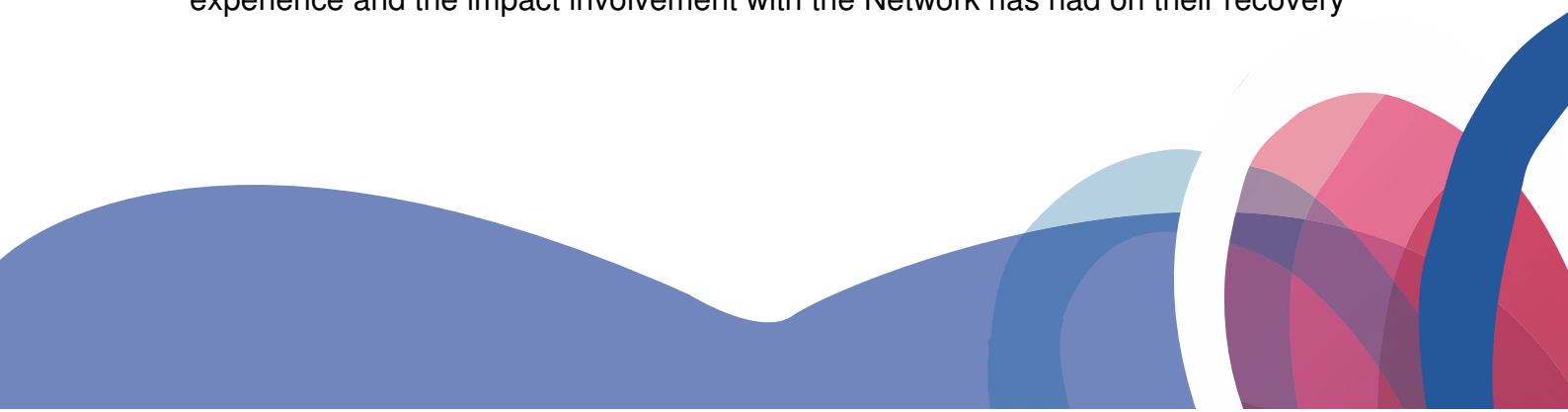
Consumer Representation training: This 5-week course was facilitated with a co-facilitator in a hybrid format, with 9 participants.

“The self-advocacy and consumer representation training wasn’t new ground for me, but it was presented in a truly incredible way with such a great consumer lens that I learned so much beyond the content of the course. Learning with and from my peers really honed my understanding beyond my own lived experience...”

“The information on advocacy and self-advocacy has encouraged me to take action in certain areas of my life. It has also created opportunities to discuss this topic with friends and family.”

“Good mix of self-care with learning about importance of systemic advocacy”

Starting a collection of members’ stories through a digital resource project documenting their involvement with the Network: a range of video resources that are currently in development. Through these interviews we will record the members experience and the impact involvement with the Network has had on their recovery



journey. To support this, members who were interviewed participated in a workshop facilitated by MIEACT on Safe Storytelling in September 2022.

Making access to our training more flexible and convenient through developing online training: the Network is also in the process of developing online learning. The purpose of this training is to complement our existing face-to-face workshops and provide self-paced training that can be easily accessed from any location, at times convenient to the learner.

Organising forums and groups to guide the design and development of training: two forums were held to explore how e-learning could meet the needs of the consumer. We are in the process of forming a reference group to guide how the existing workshops will be translated into e-learning. The Education Reference Group will ensure that the training developed by the Network continues to reflect a sound understanding of the issues that impact consumers, and to support a consistent consumer-led co-design and co-review process for the CEP workshops.

Co-Facilitators

Maree Pavloudis was co-facilitator for Self-Advocacy and Consumer Representation training in March – May 2023.

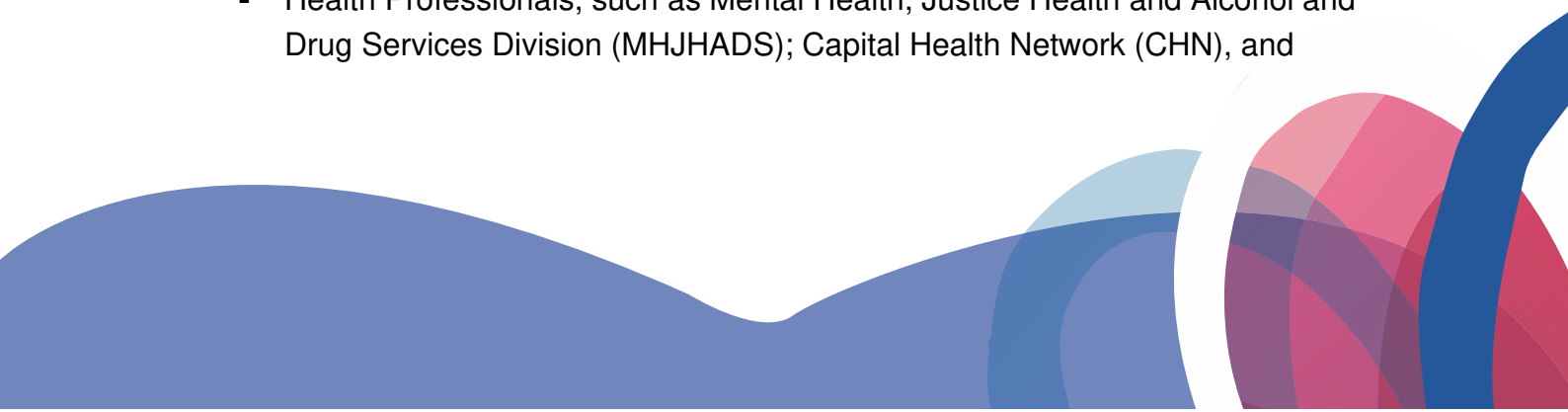
Although the Network has a number of trained Co-facilitators who have completed our Co-facilitation Training, due to varying circumstances, not all have been able to be active in that role. We hope that we might have the opportunity to facilitate together again sometime in the future!

Peer Education

Terri Warner left the Education Officer role in late 2022 to continue her PhD studies. Ben Martin has now taken over this role. Ben has experience working in the mental health field in the ACT as a mental health peer worker and has experience in delivering training to consumers. Ben has also worked as a manager in the suicide prevention space.

The Peer Education Program continued to review, update and refine the Networks 'My Rights, My Decisions' workshops. These newly developed workshops will be delivered from October 2023 and will be run for a variety of stakeholders, including:

- Consumers, both directly and through other organisations such as Southside and Wellways Step Up Step Down
- Health Professionals, such as Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Services Division (MHJHADS); Capital Health Network (CHN), and



- Non-Government organisations.

As well as redevelopment of the My Rights, My Decisions workshops, the Peer Education Program has continued to deliver in-services to stakeholders. These in-services were delivered to the Wellways Step-Up/Step-Down service in Lyneham, the Southside Step Up Step Down run by Stride and Psychiatric Registrars at the Canberra Hospital. They covered the My Rights, My Decisions form kit and how these forms can be useful and beneficial for both treating teams and consumers.

Data from the Network's survey of mental health consumers indicated that more work needs to be done promoting the usefulness of Advance Agreements in particular, because they have broader applications than acute mental health admissions and consumers indicate they don't always want to think about their lived and living experiences in those settings and may not want to include mental health admissions to hospital in the ongoing management of their mental health.

In August 2022, Terri and Eva (CRP Officer) presented at the Canberra Multicultural Community Forum Expo, and the Network will continue to engage in ways we can present this program more widely in the ACT.

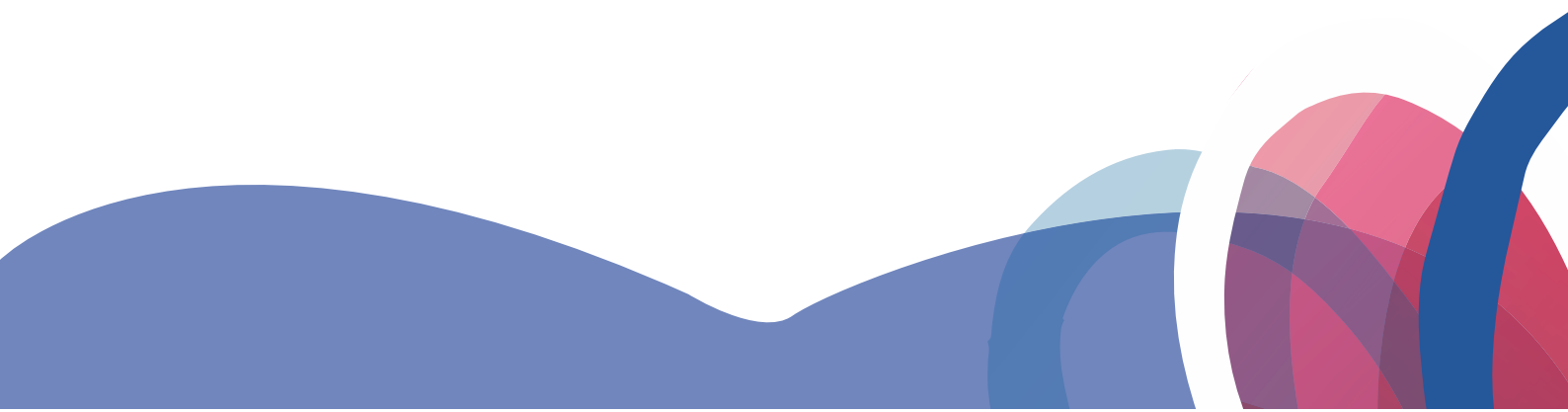
If you are interested in completing a My Rights, My Decisions workshop or would like to receive a My Rights, My Decisions in-service at your workplace please contact peer.education@actmhc.org.au

Petra Kallay

Community Education Coordinator

Ben Martin

Education Officer



Policy & Projects Program Report

It has been another busy year in the policy space, which has included the recruitment of an additional policy coordinator, Dia, on a limited basis.

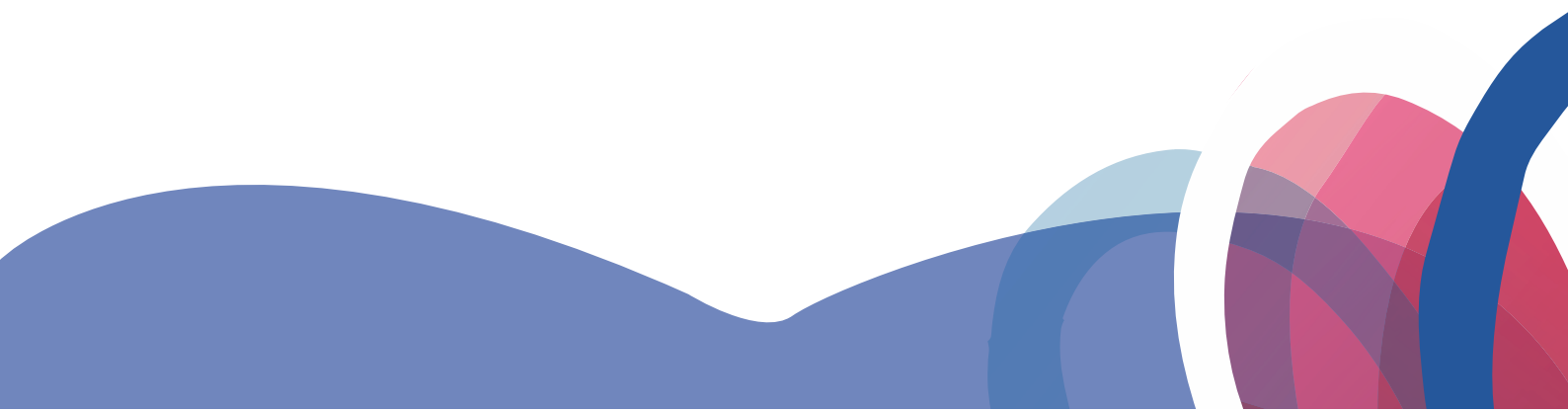
Forums and Consultations

The Dhulwa Inquiry took place in 2022-23 and the Network provided a submission based on lived experience of both members of the Network and some of the consumers residing at Gawanggal. The Network decided to submit the submission 'in confidence' as although all quotations and examples were de-identified, we had concerns that some of the stories could be related to individuals.

A Policy Reference Group (PRG), split into two sub-groups of eight consumers, was developed to consider majority of policy reviews as well as any proactive systemic advocacy requirements. Members were appointed for two or four years and meetings are held bi-monthly for each sub-group of the PRG so meetings are held monthly. Members will also bring systemic issues to these Forums for discussion. If time doesn't allow for the Network to wait for a PRG, the Network will still hold Consumer Forums and will continue to run direct feedback forums and consultations between organisations and consumers.

Submissions are drafted to present the consumer feedback received during forums and PRG meetings. The following submissions were provided in 2022-23, with majority available on our website at <https://actmhc.org.au/submissions/>:

- Dhulwa Secure Mental Health Unit Independent Inquiry
- Canberra Health Services Procedure Adult Acute Mental Health Services
- DRAFT Guide to Canberra Health Services and University of Canberra Hospital
- Nurses and Midwives - TASC: Challenging Behaviour Guideline for ACT Health Services
- Canberra Health Services – Operational Procedure: Advance Agreements, Advance Consent Directions and Nominated Persons under the Mental Health Act 2015 (ACT)
- Chief Psychiatrist – Advisory Notes on Information Sharing
- Adult Acute Inpatient Mental Health Unit Model of Care
- ACT Government: ACT Detainee Health and Wellbeing Strategy – Stakeholder Engagement Consultation Slides – December 2022.



- Canberra Health Services – Operational Guideline: Providing Physical Healthcare Across Mental Health, Justice Health, and Alcohol & Drug Services (MHJHADS)
- Canberra Health Services –Procedure: Responding to Consumer use of Alcohol and/Other Drugs
- Justice & Community Safety Directorate – Review of Offences Against Vulnerable People
- CHS Procedure for Care of Persons Subject to a Psychiatric Treatment Order
- CHS Procedure for ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) Ordered Mental Health Assessments

Direct consultations co-ordinated by the Network during 2023- 23 included:

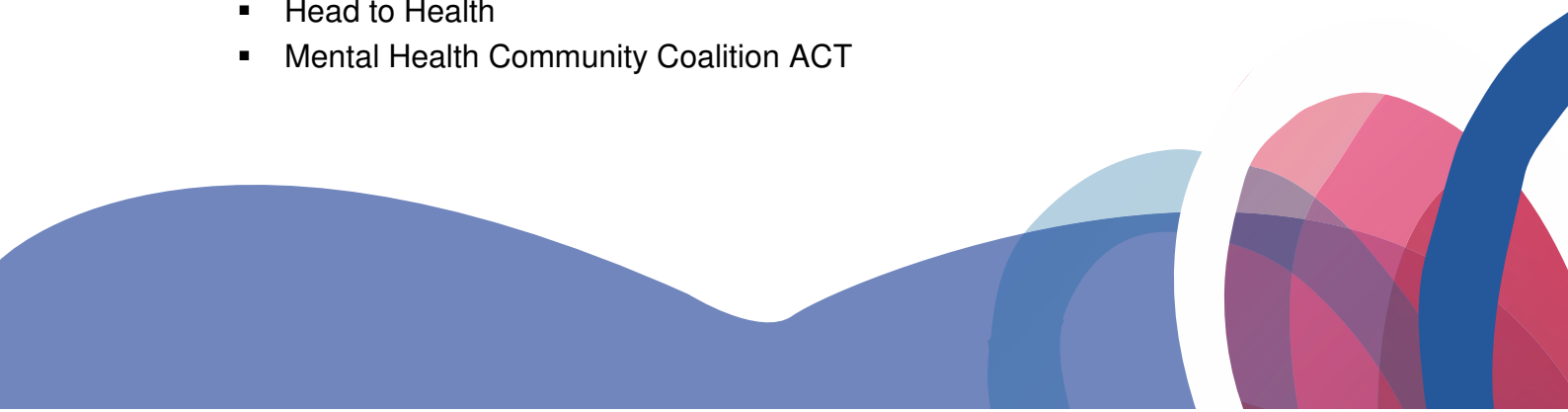
- Community Service Directorate - Lived Experience and Commissioning
- ACT Disability, Aged and Carer Advocacy Service - Women's Living Voices Project
- MHJHADS Mental Health Commissioning
- Adult Community Mental Health Services - Model of Care Evaluation
- Custodial Mental Health – Adult Operational Guideline
- Mental Health Community Coalition ACT - National Disability Insurance Scheme Review
- Office of the Chief Psychiatrist - the *Mental Health Act 2016* (ACT) Amendment Bill 2023.

Other external policy activities that members have been involved in

- Evaluation of Better Access Program
- Canberra Health Services Learning and Teaching Strategy Development
- Dhulwa Search Policy and Procedure Review

The Network continues to ensure that we actively stay engaged with other peak organisations and community service organisations, including regularly participating with the development of/running of:

- ACT Safe Haven
- ACT Head to Health
- ACT Council of Social Services - Justice Reform Group, Peak Bodies Leadership Group, Commissioning Group
- Head to Health
- Mental Health Community Coalition ACT



- Mental Health, Justice Health, Alcohol and Drugs Division, Canberra Health Services
- Commissioning process of Mental Health Services
- Office of Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Commissioning Health Services in the Community Project
- Canberra Services Division and Community Sector Update

Thank you to all members that participated in our policy work this year.

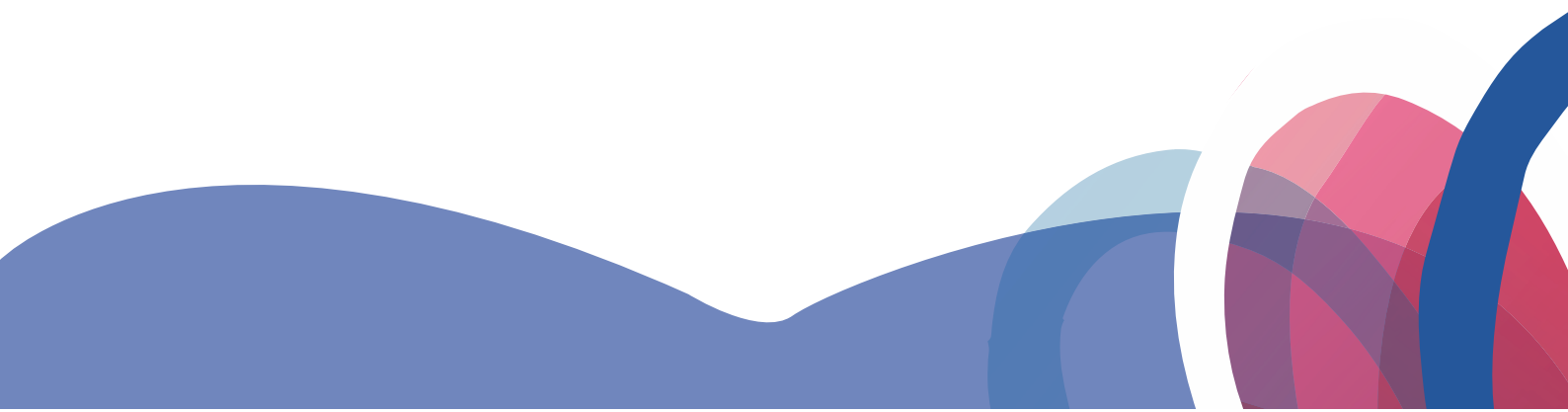
Jen Nixon

Program Manager

Policy & Participation Coordinator

Dia Andrews

Policy & Participation Coordinator



Consumer Representative Program Report

The Consumer Representative Program (CRP) weathered many changes in 2022-23 including Canberra Health Services (CHS) committees recommencing, the development of a new reimbursement process for Consumer Representatives that participate in Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drugs Division (MHJHADS) committees, and new Consumer Representatives starting their roles with the Network.

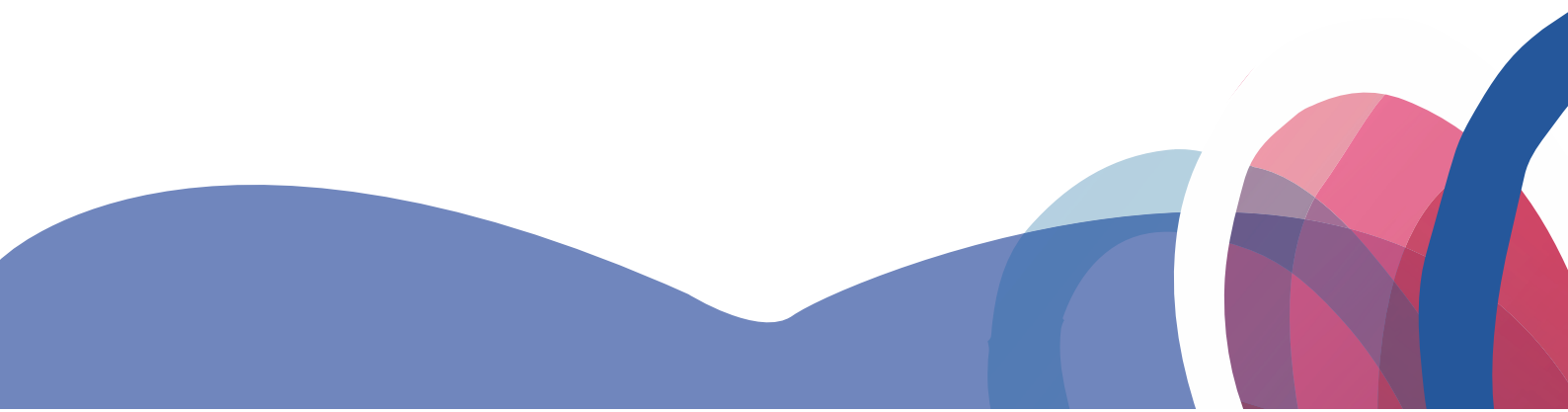
During the past year, CHS undertook a governance review including reducing the number of committees and reducing the number of attendees on remaining committees. This had significant impacts to the CRP and reducing Consumer Representative opportunities. As of the beginning of 2023, committee appointments to MHJHADS Committees restarted, with appointments back to the usual two year term.

The 2022-2023 year saw several new consumer representative opportunities including the Australian National University Community and Research Enhanced Support (ANU CaRES) Committees, ACT Suicide Prevention Coordination Committee, ACT Mental Health Commissioning Advisory Group, Dhulwa Secure Mental Health Unit (Dhulwa) Review Committees and the ACT Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Coordinating Group.

In August 2022, the Network started work with the MHJHADS to support a new invoicing process for the reimbursement of Consumer Representatives to ensure that reimbursement occurred in a timely manner and were easily reconciled. This has been in place since August and the feedback has been nothing but positive.

Paul Thompson was appointed to the role of ACT Consumer Representative on the National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Forum (NMHCCF). Paul has an active and long-term involvement with the Network and his report on the NMHCCF is included later in the Annual Report.

The Network welcomes and congratulates the new eligible Consumer Representatives – Dia Andrews, Assunta Arioli, John Forsey, Luke Lake, Ann-Marie McNess, Katie Price and Jeremy Michael who recently completed their Self-Advocacy and Consumer Representation training. We also warmly welcome back Matthew Martin and Julie McMahon, both experienced Consumer Representatives and we look forward to their continued active and valuable engagement.



Consumer Representatives have been engaged in their committees and in the CRP Forums, where they robustly discussed issues including reimbursement, the importance of being listened to and valued as a member of committees, people's experiences with the Digital Health Record (DHR) including their concerns, their lived experience of being in hospital and the independent inquiry being held re the Dhulwa. Petra Kallay facilitated the CRP Masterclasses at the CRP Forums, covering topics such as self-care for volunteers, providing effective feedback for Consumer Representatives and developing an online learning platform.

In July 2022, the Network acknowledged, two Consumer Representatives who have been volunteering as Consumer Representatives for 10 years – Jane Grace and Patricia Green and one Consumer Representative who has been volunteering as a Consumer Representatives for five (5) years – Bianca Rossetti.

A heartfelt thank you to all 16 active Consumer Representatives for their ongoing systemic efforts and their willingness to continue to engage and participate eagerly, with positivity and understanding.

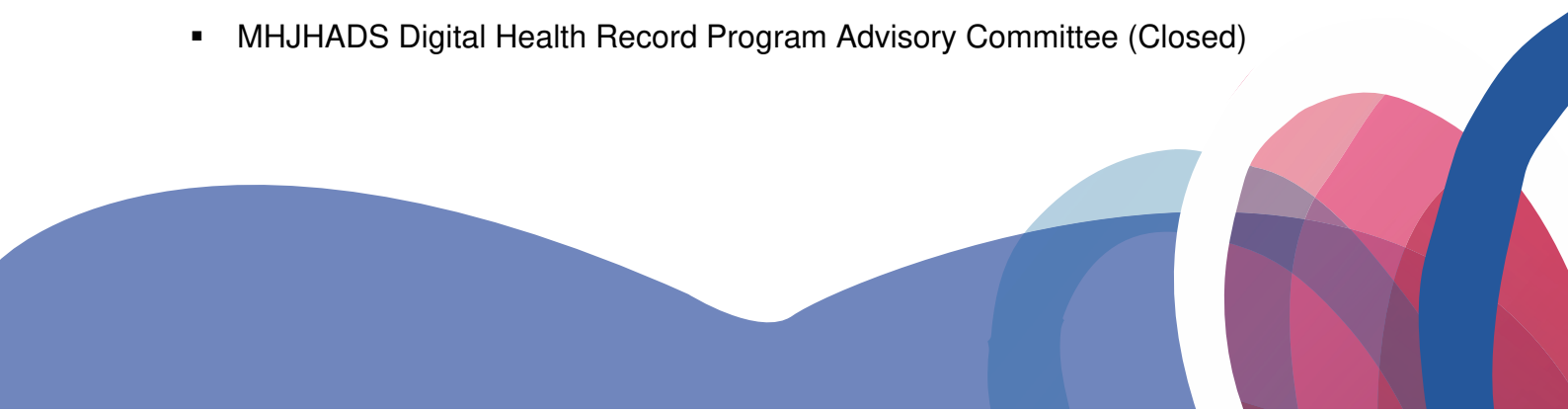
These Consumer Representatives represented the mental health consumer voice on 39 committees over the reporting period, covering a wide range of issues such as the planning for a new mental health service located at the ANU, the Dhulwa committees working on the recommendations from the Inquiry, mental health commissioning work, major project development and management with the Canberra Hospital Expansion Project and ACT Safe Haven as well as ongoing policy development, governance, guideline, handout and pamphlet review.

If you are interested in becoming a Consumer Representative, please don't hesitate to reach out to me, Eva Damarjati, at representatives@actmhc.org.au.



2022-23 COMMITTEES

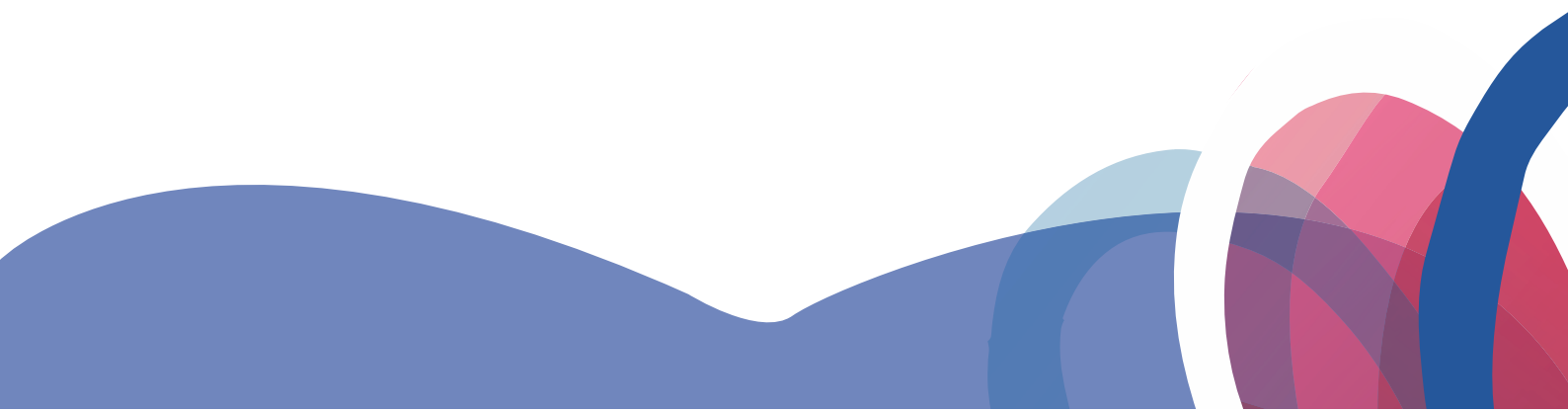
- Adult Community Mental Health Service Governance Committee (New)
- Adult Inpatient Mental Health Services Governance Committee (New)
- ACT Consumer and Carer Research Unit Advisory Group (ACACIA)
- ACT Safe Haven Steering Group
- ACT Suicide Prevention Coordinating Committee (New)
- ACT Mental Health Commissioning Advisory Group (New)
- ACT Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Coordinating Group (New)
- Australian National University (ANU) CaRES Consultation Committee (New)
- ANU CaRES Service Model Committee (New)
- ANU CaRES Financial Modelling Committee (New)
- ACT Corrective Services Disability Expert Reference Group (New)
- Capital Health Network Community Advisory Council
- Canberra Hospital Expansion Project Consumer Reference Group
- Canberra Health Network Head to Health Sub-committee
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) Team Managers' Governance Committee (New)
- Centenary Hospital for Women and Children Expansion Project – Adolescent Mental Health Unit Working Group (Closed)
- Centenary Hospital for Women and Children Expansion Project Control Group
- Co-Creating Safe Spaces: core team (evaluation ACT Safe Haven)
- Canberra Health Services Consumer Handouts Committee
- Dhulwa Working Group (New)
- Dhulwa Independent Oversight Board Committee (New)
- Dhulwa Inquiry - Policy and Security Workstream Committee (New)
- Mental Health Act 2015 Oversight Committee
- Mental Health Month ACT Advisory Committee
- Mental Health Outcomes Working Group (New)
- MHJHADS Digital Health Record Consumer Experience Committee
- MHJHADS Digital Health Record Program Advisory Committee (Closed)



- MHJHADS Governance Committee
- MHJHADS Physical Health Steering Group Committee
- MHJHADS Restraint, Seclusion, Restrictive Practices Review Committee
- MHJHADS Mortality and Morbidity Committee
- National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Forum
- Police, Ambulance, and Clinician Early Response (PACER) Working Group
- Southside Community Step-Up/Step-Down Governance Committee
- Wellways and ACT Health Governance Committee
- Territory Wide Mental Health Services Governance Committee (Closed)
- The Way Back Support Services Governance Group
- University of Canberra Hospital Facility Wide Operational Working Group
- Your Experience of Service (YES) Survey Project Reference Group (New)

Eva Damarjati

Consumer Representative Program Officer



National Mental Health Consumer & Carer Forum Report

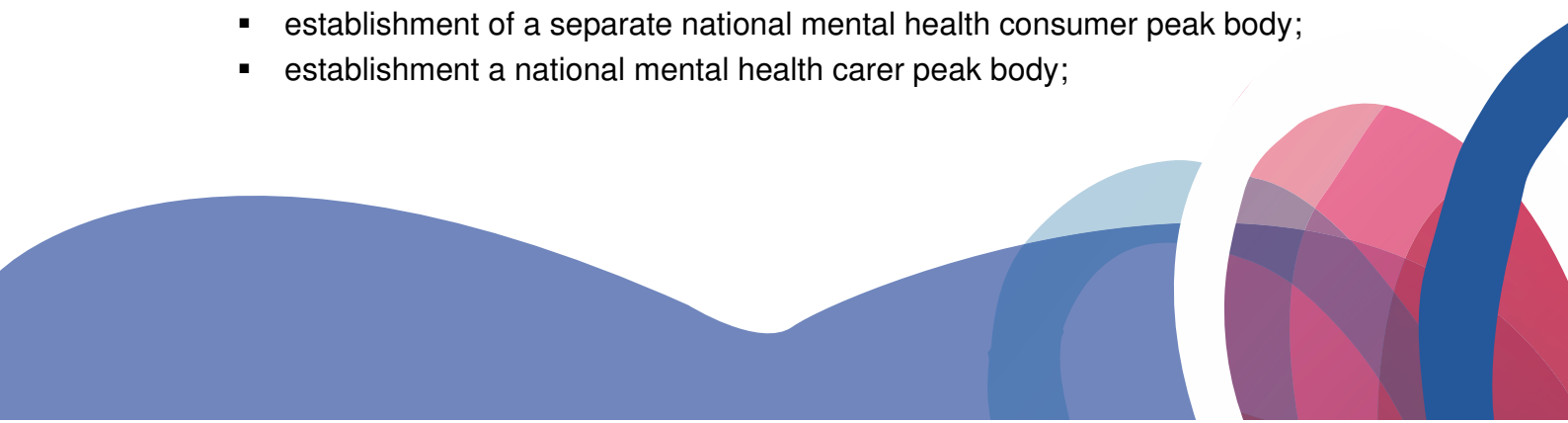
I was appointed to the National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Forum (NMHCCF) in May 2022 as the ACT Consumer Representative. NMHCCF is a combined national voice for mental health consumers and carers. Forum members represent mental health consumers and carers on a large number of national bodies, including government committees and advisory groups, professional bodies and other consultative forums and events. Members use their lived experience, understanding of the mental health system and communication skills to advocate and promote the issues and concerns of consumers and carers.

Two of the papers produced this year at the Forum include:

1. A Toolkit to Authentically Embed Lived Experience Governance to provide users with a selection of tools and resources to assist in exploring and assessing their own governance processes and formulate a pathway towards embedding lived experience governance across their systems, structures, policies, processes, practices, programs and services.
2. The Lived Experience Governance Framework responds to calls from the mental health and other sectors for changes in the way systems are governed to align them more strongly with human rights approaches and to meaningfully embrace lived experience. To transform systems and improve lives, a formal framework is needed to embed lived experience perspectives, values, principles, expertise and leadership in all aspects of governance. Its applicability and reach span a spectrum of settings and sectors, including and beyond health systems, structures, policies, processes, practices, programs and services and peer-led initiatives.

More details about papers and submissions prepared and submitted can be found at: <https://nmhccf.org.au/>

The main topic of discussion at forums this year was the proposed formation of two Mental Health peak bodies for Consumers and Carers. Discussion at the NMHCCF in November 2022 identified that current government's approach is to be more "top down" and not to take a true co-design approach like that of the NMHCCF. The NMHCCF position on these peak bodies is as follows:

- establishment of a separate national mental health consumer peak body;
 - establishment a national mental health carer peak body;
- 

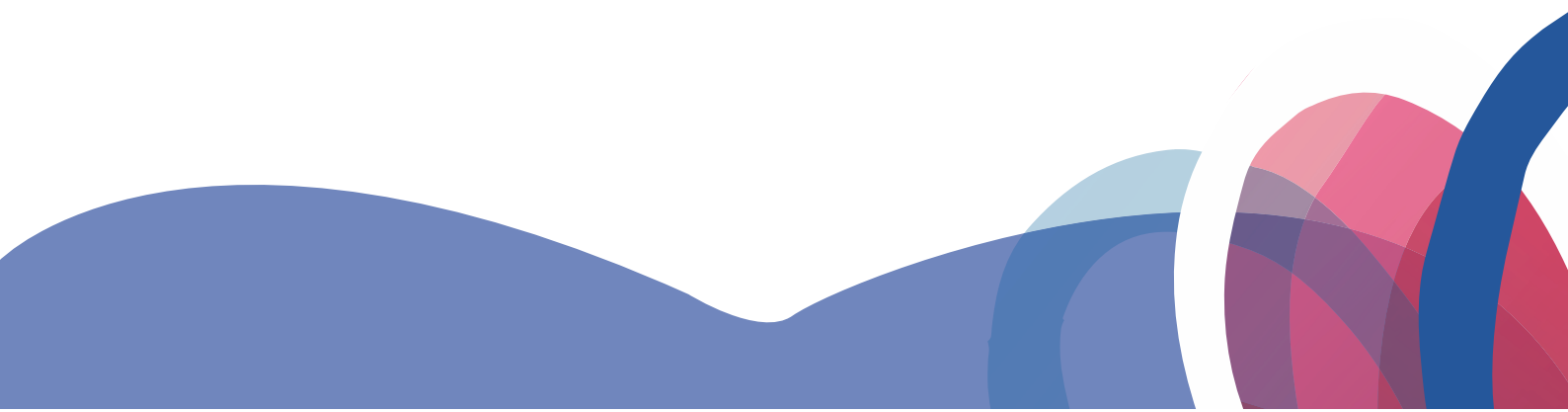
- development of a formal mechanism to support a combined lived experience voice of consumers and carers in Australia; and
- development of a whole of government approach to support mental health consumers and carers having an essential voice in mental health reform, particularly with the cessation of previous governance structures such as the Council of Australian Governments Health Council and the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council.

More information on the formation of the proposed new peak bodies can be found at: <https://www.mentalhealthcommission.gov.au/News-and-media/media-releases/2023/January/Lived-experience-peak-bodies>

It remains to be seen how the NMHCCF will be impacted, once these new peaks have been created. My own experience with the Forum so far is that there has been effective collaboration between both carer and consumer representatives.

Paul Thompson

NMHCCF ACT Consumer Representative



Drop-In Report

Drop-In continues to operate under a hybrid format, giving consumers the flexibility to attend either in-person or online through Zoom. The online attendance option has helped alleviate concerns for consumers wanting to continue to physically distance post lockdown. Drop-In has also welcomed the online attendance of consumers who haven't had the capacity to attend in person, including some staying in various health care facilities across the ACT. The hybrid format has notably improved Drop-In's accessibility, reducing social isolation for people experiencing vulnerability.

During this period, Drop-In has been able to make use of the recently upgraded conferencing facilities. The interactive display screen and conferencing camera allow online Drop-In participants to see and interact with those in attendance in the Network Members area. The 86-inch screen was also utilised for a movie Drop-In, with more screenings planned in future.

For most of this financial year, Drop-In was funded under a National Disability Insurance Scheme Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (NDIS-ILC) grant. This funding enabled the Network to appoint a dedicated staff member to operate Drop-In. The Drop-In Officer is on hand to assist consumers who access the facilities and use the service to support their self-advocacy needs. Additionally, the Drop-In Officer can engage with consumers and utilise their feedback to plan and hold events that are relevant and productive. The Network wishes to thank Paul Thompson for his continued contribution as a volunteer when Drop-In has needed some extra support, following his service as Drop-In Officer in previous years.

The Network has developed an ongoing arrangement with Farzana Choudhury, Disability Law Supervising Solicitor at Canberra Community Law, who runs a monthly Mental Health Justice Clinic at the Network to provide free legal advice.

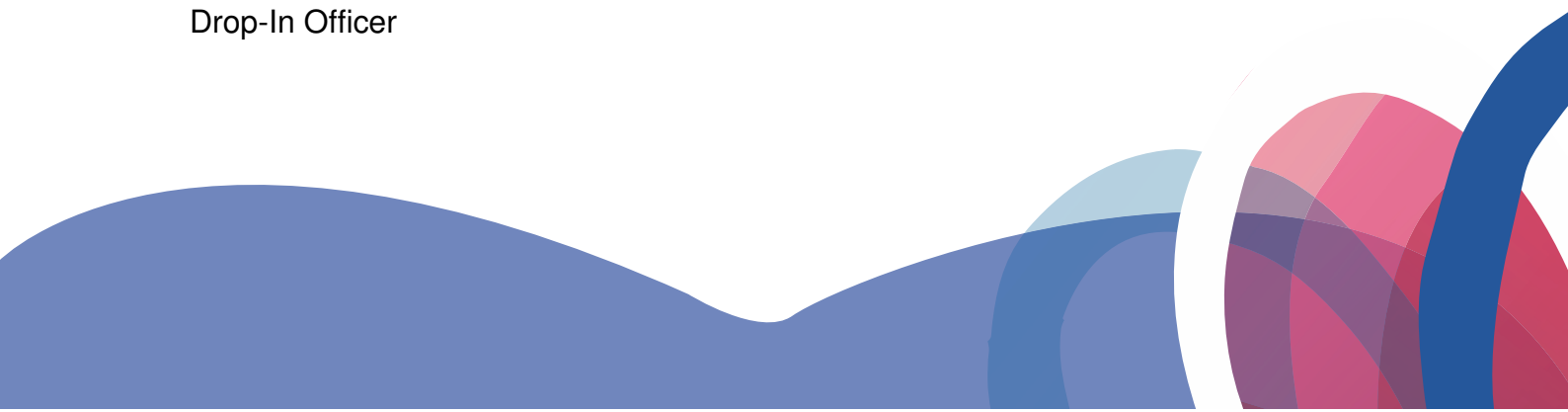
Drop-In hosted an interesting variety of events during this period, including information sessions from government and mental health service providers, Mental Health Month activities including Wellbeing Prior-Tea and movie drop in.

Two events of note were A Beary Lovely Morning Tea and the annual BBQ. Both events were well attended and served as a much-needed catch-up post COVID-19.

If you have any ideas for Drop-In, please contact me at drop-in@actmhc.org.au.

Jo Hargense

Drop-In Officer



Administration & Information Report

The year 2022/23 saw the Network continue to consolidate changes to the work environment while adapting to emerging changes and technology. The year also saw a major focus shift to improving the Network's online presence and updating of publications.

A few years back, information was received from our Internet Service Provider (ISP) that the old copper telephone network would be discontinued from 2020 in favour of fibre NBN. As 2020 didn't happen for anybody, no follow up notifications were received as to the progress of the copper line discontinuation and NBN installation.

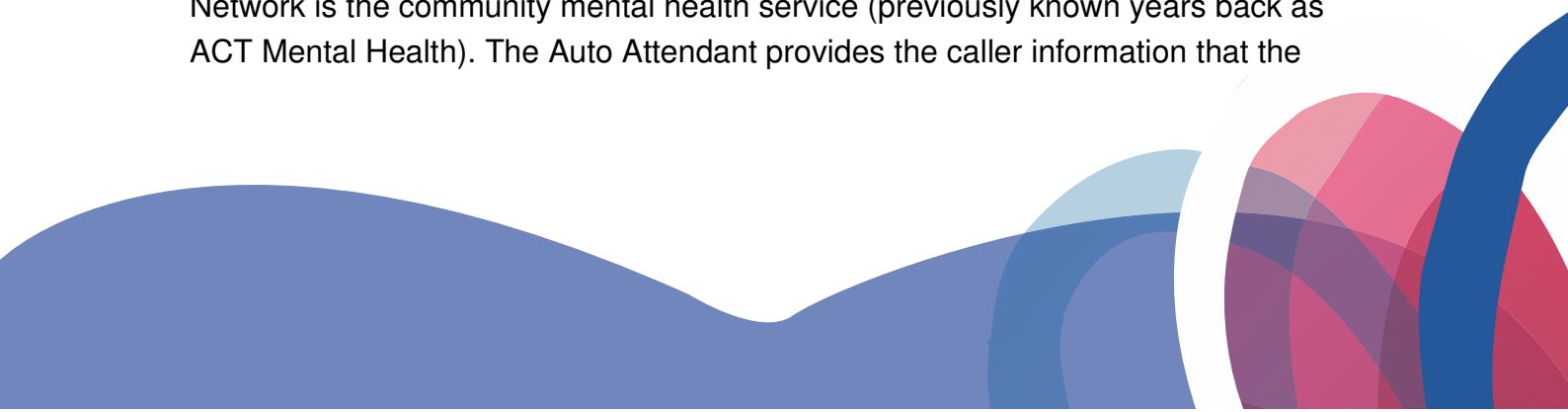
In August 2022, it was found that the telephone infrastructure had been discontinued and upgraded to Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) NBN, again with no notice received. This resulted in calls unable to be received in our office and staff required to use the work issued mobiles. Internet services remained in operation but were also due to be discontinued.

Due to staff becoming comfortable working in a hybrid work environment (partly working within the office and remotely), the Network introduced an internet telephone system. Datavoice was engaged to provide this service.

The system enables staff to receive and make calls from anywhere they are working and reduced the need for staff to have mobile phones. Advantages with this system include:

- Auto Attendant. Callers are greeted by the Auto Attendant, giving options as to who they can have their call directed to. The options available change according to opening hours, public holidays and office closures.
- External redirection to crisis and mental health services. Prior to this new system, calls and messages were received by the Network from people looking for mental health crisis or advocacy support. These calls can now be directed to the right service during a call or through the Auto Attendant.
- Voicemail recordings are emailed directly to the staff member. Even if the wrong person is receiving the message, it can easily be forwarded by email to the right person or saved, should it be necessary to do so.

The new system reduces the potential of staff being exposed to abuse and traumatising information from people in crisis calling, or mistakenly thinking that the Network is the community mental health service (previously known years back as ACT Mental Health). The Auto Attendant provides the caller information that the



Network is not a support provider and giving options for the caller to be redirected to the right service.

With the increase in online activity using the new internet telephone, cloud-based file management system and video conferencing, the Network required an upgrade to our internet connection. A new provider for NBN was engaged and a FTTP NBN connection was installed late October 2022.

Website

As reported in the previous annual report, the Network continued developing its new website, overseen by Val.

The development of the website focused on two major components:

- reviewing our content on the then current website and clarifying where our information could be misunderstood in terms of what the Network does; and
- identifying and integrating components of our membership database with the website to assist staff in streamlining workload and making the website more interactive for members and the community.

The interactive components for the site and database, auto entry of new memberships, and public display of upcoming events and the allowing for online registrations have allowed Network staff to streamline their workloads.

Contact forms were also created to allow consumers to contact the Network with general enquiries, service feedback or publication submissions, which are filtered to specific staff depending on which contact option is being used. Additional space on the website is allocated for a future online e-learning platform to be incorporated.

The new website went live in February 2023, with interim measures used for components of the site that were later made available. Due to the delay in site completion and Val going on extended leave from late February, user testing of the site didn't officially occur until June 2023.

While the user testing involved low member participation, we have implemented changes based on the feedback received on the various features. Canberra Blind Society accepted the Network's invitation to participate in the user testing, which gave the website designer and staff the opportunity to see how screen readers work with websites and considerations in developing publications for people with vision impairments.

Work is continuing to refine and finalise the website.



Collaboration on developing the website was between Josie Brown web design, DevApp and the Network. Illustrations we use on the website were created by Andrew Hore from Funnyworks Oz by commission.

ACT Mental Health Consumer Network

Home Latest News ▾ Get Involved ▾ Publications ▾ About ▾ Contact Us ▾ [Join](#) Training Portal 🔍

Welcome to ACT Mental Health Consumer Network (the Network)
The peak body for mental health consumers in the ACT

If you are in crisis or require immediate support for your mental health, please call:

Lifeline on 13 11 14;
Headspace (12 to 25 years of age) on (02) 6113 5700;
Beyond Blue on 1300 224 636; and/or
Access Mental Health/HAART (formerly CATT) on 1800 629 354 or (02) 6205 1065.
For all emergencies call 000 and request Police, Fire or Ambulance as appropriate to your situation.

ment in 1997, our purpose has been to improve mental health services and programs in the Australian Capital

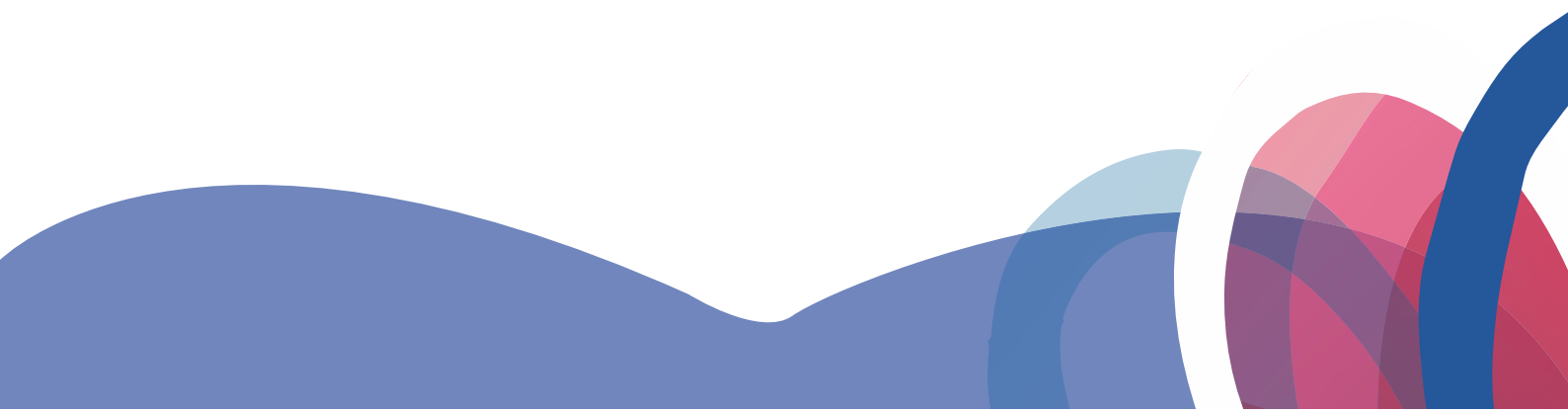
Other

In October 2022 we received notice that our local post office where our PO Box had been located for 22 years would be closing, requiring us to set up a new PO Box at a different Australia Post outlet. We took this opportunity of needing to change our PO Box to engage graphic designers to recreate our existing branded stationery and give us the capability to update our details as required. The content of our existing brochures was also reviewed, making any necessary updates to the information, incorporating the illustrations present on our new website, and giving the branding a bit of style update.

Old Network News template

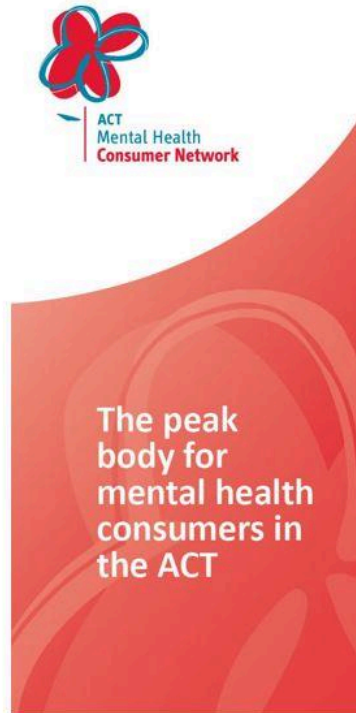


New Network News template



Old brochures

New brochures



With the increase in an online presence, comes an increase in the risk of digital crime, and the Network was not immune to this. Over the past year, we experienced numerous occasions where our debit cards were being fraudulently used online. While a tedious experience having to file claims with our bank and having cards reissued, fortunately we were able to recover all the stolen funds and implemented measures to reduce the magnitude of any future theft.

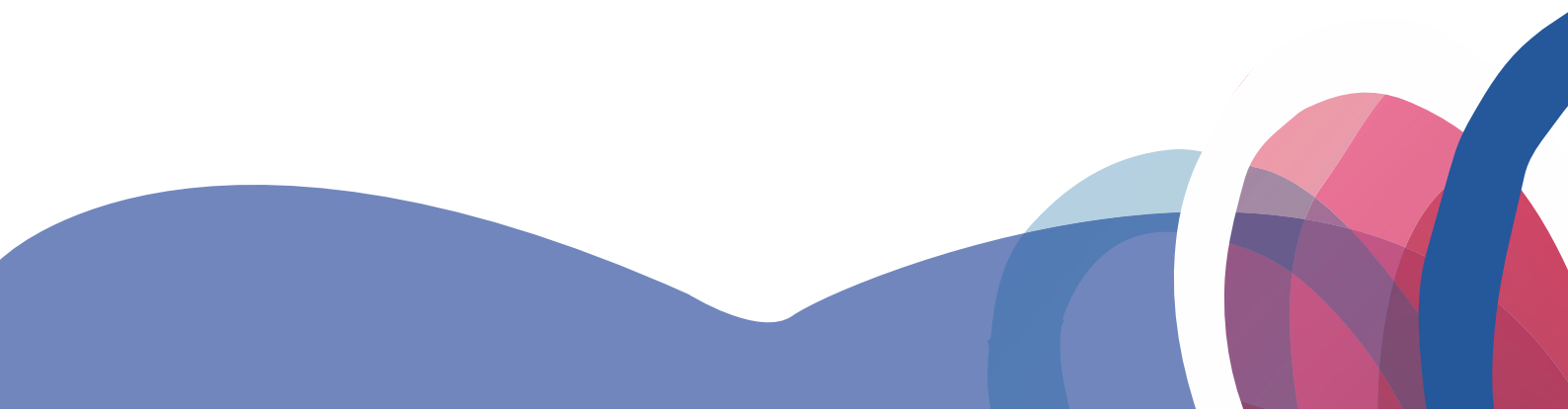
Workplace Health and Safety

Following on from the previous year, the Network maintained a sensible level of precaution around COVID-19 infection control within the office space and other locations where our events were held.

Daily disinfection of areas still occurred, and provision of Rapid Antigen Tests continued to be available for staff to self-test, should they begin to become symptomatic of COVID-19 whilst on duty. While not a mandatory requirement anymore, masks are still encouraged to be worn, but visitors are under no obligation to do so. The Network still provides face masks for visitors should they start to become unwell while present, along with hand sanitiser and hand washing facilities.

HEPA air purifiers were purchased in March 2023 for use in the office when activities such as meetings and training are being held. This has really been the last piece of the puzzle to have the Network return to fully functional state.

Another safety measure undertaken was a clean out of the Members Area. Past visitors to the Network may recall that the amount of furniture within the members area reduced the available space and maximum number of participants who were able to be in the room at any one time, using the minimum social distancing measurements. Disposal of the large shelving unit and other minor items, with some relocation of useable furniture, opened the members area up more and created a more inviting space.





Other instances where Health and Safety concerns have arisen is through the Consumer Representation program. The Network and our Consumer Representatives recognise that they may encounter information that may be trauma triggering whilst on duty, and we continue to offer support and access to additional supports as required. In most cases the staff or Consumer Representative are aware of what will be triggering by the committee's topic, however, there was at least one instance of trauma being triggered at a committee where it was completely unexpected. This issue was formally addressed with the committee organisers about the importance of participants being informed about agenda items and activities, so that they can make an informed choice to participate or not.

Further training was organised for Network staff and Consumer Representatives in 'Do No Harm' storytelling training provided by Mental Illness Education ACT, following this incident and as a professional development exercise.

Information Technology

For our events that offered online participation, an 86-inch electronic whiteboard was purchased at the end of the previous financial year, so in-person participants could clearly see online participants and presentations. The first test of this whiteboard with our conferencing camera occurred at the 2022 AGM, which identified some connection issues between the two. After extensive contact with manufacturers the issues were resolved and the two pieces of equipment now work seamlessly, which has greatly enhanced our hybrid events.



Events

Mental Health Month

'A Beary Lovely Morning' was held again for Mental Health Month.

As previous years have shown this event is very popular with members and the general community, for 2022 we applied for \$2,000 in reimbursement grant funding. This was to help us organise two separate Beary Lovely Mornings and increase participation. Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful in securing any funding to assist putting on A Beary Lovely Morning.

We continued ahead at our own expense in planning a one-day event and still had a successful Beary Lovely Morning and were booked out. Again, this event saw members of the community attending experiencing poor mental health, or knowing someone who currently is, along with Network members.

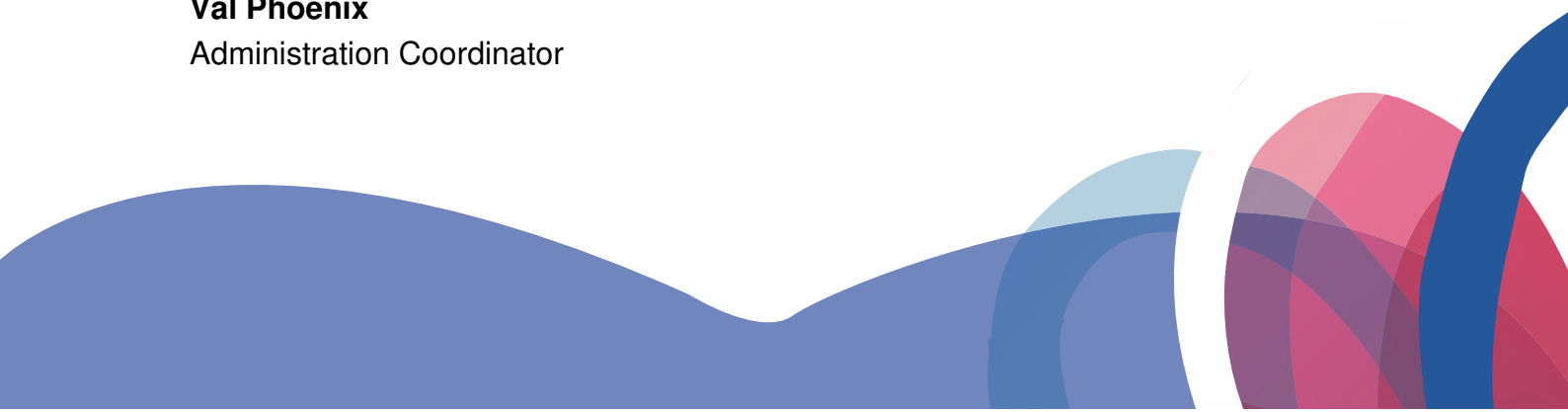




A Beary Lovely Morning participants conducting the Heart Ceremony



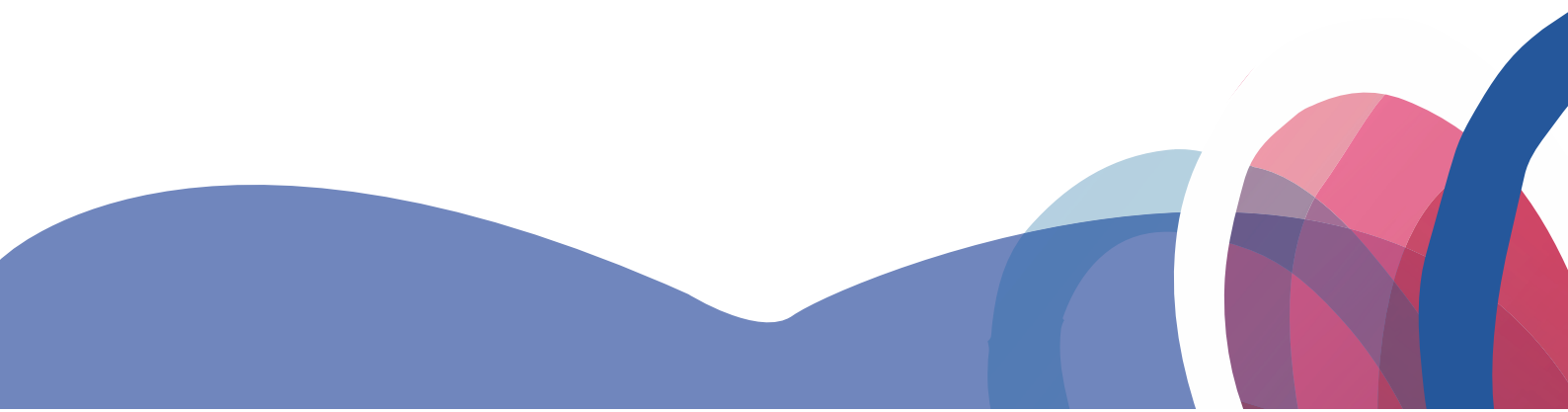
Val Phoenix
Administration Coordinator

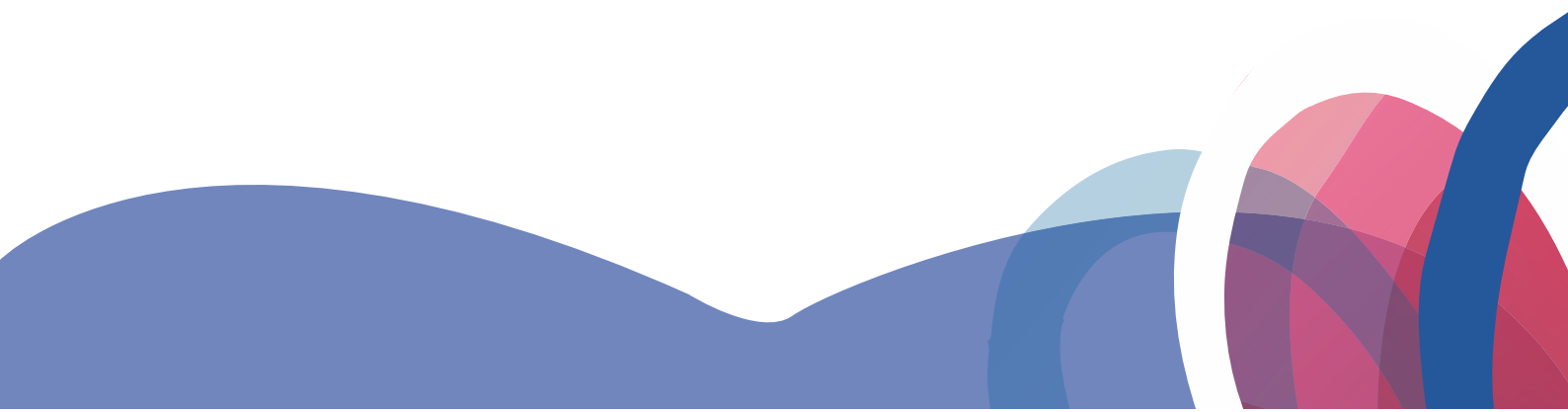


Audited Financial Statements

For The Year Ended 30 June 2023

8 pages to follow





ACT MENTAL HEALTH CONSUMER NETWORK INCORPORATED

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

**ACT MENTAL HEALTH CONSUMER NETWORK INCORPORATED
FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

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**ACT MENTAL HEALTH CONSUMER NETWORK INCORPORATED
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE**

Your committee members submit the financial report of ACT Mental Health Consumer Network Incorporated for the financial year ended 30 June 2023.

Board Committee members

The names of Committee members of ACT Mental Health Consumer Network Incorporated throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Name	Role	Date of Appointment
Bianca Rossetti	Chair	15 November 2022
Lachlan Atyeo	Deputy Chair	15 November 2022
Kathryn Dwan	Secretary	15 November 2022
Maree Pavloundis	Treasurer	15 November 2022
Thi NhaTran	Member	15 November 2022
Chris Corcoran	Member	15 November 2022
Phillip Green	Member	15 November 2022
Rose Beard	Member	15 November 2022
Lucas Spensberger	Member	6 December 2022
Bridget Berry	Member	15 November 2022
Jenny Adams	Member	15 November 2022

Committee members have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

Principal Activities

The principal activity of ACT Mental Health Consumer Network Incorporated during the year were to facilitate equitable access to, promote the expansion of, and to empower consumers to utilise all means to achieve and maintain better mental health. There has been no significant change in those activities during the year.

Operating Result

The surplus for the year ended 30 June 2023 amounted to \$1,986 (2022: \$3,045).

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee.



Committee Member



Committee Member

Dated this 9th day of August 2023.

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ACT MENTAL HEALTH CONSUMER NETWORK INCORPORATED

Scope

I have audited the accompanying financial report of the ACT Mental Health Consumer Network Incorporated for the financial year ended 30 June 2023, including the statement of financial position, statement of comprehensive income and statement of cash flows for the year then ended a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information and the statement by members of the Committee.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Committee of the Association is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and has determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, which form part of the financial report, are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 1991* (ACT) and are appropriate to meet the needs of members. The Committee's responsibilities also include designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the organisation's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal controls. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Board, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting my audit, I followed applicable independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying my opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 of the financial report which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report is a special purpose financial report and has been prepared by the Committee to satisfy the requirements of the reporting obligations to the ACT Mental Health Consumer Network Incorporated and to meet the needs of members. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
ACT MENTAL HEALTH CONSUMER NETWORK INCORPORATED**

Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the ACT Mental Health Consumer Network Incorporated as at 30 June 2023 and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the *Associations Incorporated Act 1991* (ACT).



David Perceval
Fellow of the Institute of Chartered
Accounts of Australia
ICAA Member #45109

31st July 2023
Canberra, ACT

ACT MENTAL HEALTH CONSUMER NETWORK INCORPORATED
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Revenue		
ACT Health – Operational & ERO Grants	553,600	526,844
Sundry/Training	14,517	2,995
Interest	2,463	60
Total Revenue	570,580	529,899
Expenses		
Salaries and Wages	444,856	399,460
Office Support	52,074	52,593
Administration	30,534	50,118
Program/Consumer Support	41,130	24,682
Total Expenses	568,594	526,854
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year	1,986	3,045

ACT MENTAL HEALTH CONSUMER NETWORK INCORPORATED
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at Bank	220,058	208,102
Trade and other receivables	4,543	230
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	224,601	208,332
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Office Equipment WDV	11,704	7,272
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	11,704	7,272
TOTAL ASSETS	236,305	215,604
LIABILITIES		
Trade Creditors	27,654	18,055
Sundry Creditors	10,291	7,331
Provision for Employee Entitlements	18,387	29,621
Unexpended Grants	19,517	2,128
TOTAL LIABILITIES	75,849	57,134
NET ASSETS	160,456	158,470
REPRESENTED BY:		
Members Funds at the Beginning of Year	158,470	155,425
Retained earnings	1,986	3,045
MEMBERS FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	160,456	158,470

ACT MENTAL HEALTH CONSUMER NETWORK INCORPORATED
CASHFLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Receipts from Grants	533,111	526,844
Interest received	2,463	60
Other Receipts	14,517	2,995
Payments in the course of operations	<u>(531,312)</u>	<u>(531,153)</u>
Net cash outflow from operating activities	<u>18,779</u>	<u>(1,254)</u>
Increase in Investing Activities		
Purchase of plant and equipment	<u>(6,823)</u>	<u>(7,272)</u>
Net cash outflow from investing activities	<u>(6,823)</u>	<u>(7,272)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year	<u>208,102</u>	<u>216,628</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	<u>220,058</u>	<u>208,102</u>
 Represented by:		
Cash at Bank	220,014	208,062
Petty Cash	<u>44</u>	<u>40</u>
	<u>220,058</u>	<u>208,102</u>
 Reconciliation of Operating Surplus with Net Cashflows from Operating Activities for the Period.		
Operating Surplus	1,986	3,045
Depreciation	<u>2,392</u>	<u>-</u>
Operating Surplus Adjusted for Non-Cash Items		
(Increase)/Decrease in Sundry Debtors & Accrued Income	(4,313)	(30)
Increase/(Decrease) in Trade Creditors	9,599	(2,047)
Increase/(Decrease) in Sundry Creditors & Accrued Expenses	2,960	1,113
Increase/(Decrease) in Unexpended Grants	17,389	(2,113)
Increase/(Decrease) in Provision for Employee Entitlements	<u>(11,234)</u>	<u>(1,223)</u>
Net Cashflows from Operating Activities	<u>18,779</u>	<u>(1,254)</u>

ACT MENTAL HEALTH CONSUMER NETWORK INCORPORATED
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial report is a special purpose financial report which has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting Interpretations and the *Associations Incorporations Act) 1991 (ACT)*.

The financial report covers the ACT Mental Health Consumer Network Incorporated as an individual entity. The Association as an association incorporated in the ACT under the *Association Incorporation Act 1991 (ACT)*.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the economic entity in the preparation of the financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

Basis of Preparation

Reporting Basis and Conventions

The financial report has been prepared on an accrual basis and is based on historical costs modified by the revaluation of selected non - current assets, and financial assets and financial liabilities for which the fair value basis of accounting has been applied.

Accounting Policies

a. Income tax

No provision has been made for income tax as the Association is exempt from taxation under Section 50-5 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

b. Property, Plant and Equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Where an asset is acquired at no cost, the cost is its fair value as at the date of acquisition.

The carrying amount of the assets is reviewed annually by directors to ensure it is not more than the recoverable amount from these assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows that will be received from the assets employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows is discounted to their present values in determining recoverable amounts.

c. Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets is depreciated on a straight-line basis over its useful lives to the Association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

The depreciating rates used for each class are:

Class of Fixed Asset	Rates
Plant & Equipment	25%
Theatre Equipment	30%

ACT MENTAL HEALTH CONSUMER NETWORK INCORPORATED
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

d. Impairment of Assets

At each reporting date, the Association reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the income statement.

Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the group estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

e. Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the Association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee benefits that are expected to be settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled, plus related on-costs. Employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits.

f. Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result, and that outflow can be reliably measured.

g. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities on the balance sheet.

Cash flows are included in the Statement of Cash Flows on a gross basis. The GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is classified as operating cash flows.

h. Revenue

Grants & Fees

Government grants and fees are recognised as income on the basis over the periods necessary to match them with the related costs.

Donations

Donations revenues are recognised when they are received.

Interest revenue

Interest is recognised on an accrual basis.

ACT MENTAL HEALTH CONSUMER NETWORK INCORPORATED
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

i. Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the cash flow statement on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

**ACT MENTAL HEALTH CONSUMER NETWORK INCORPORATED
STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE**

In the opinion of the Committee the financial report

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of ACT Mental Health Consumer Network Incorporated as at 30 June 2023 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, mandatory professional reporting requirements and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that ACT Mental Health Consumer Network Incorporated will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Hyle', is written above a horizontal line.

Committee Member

Dated this 9th day of August 2023