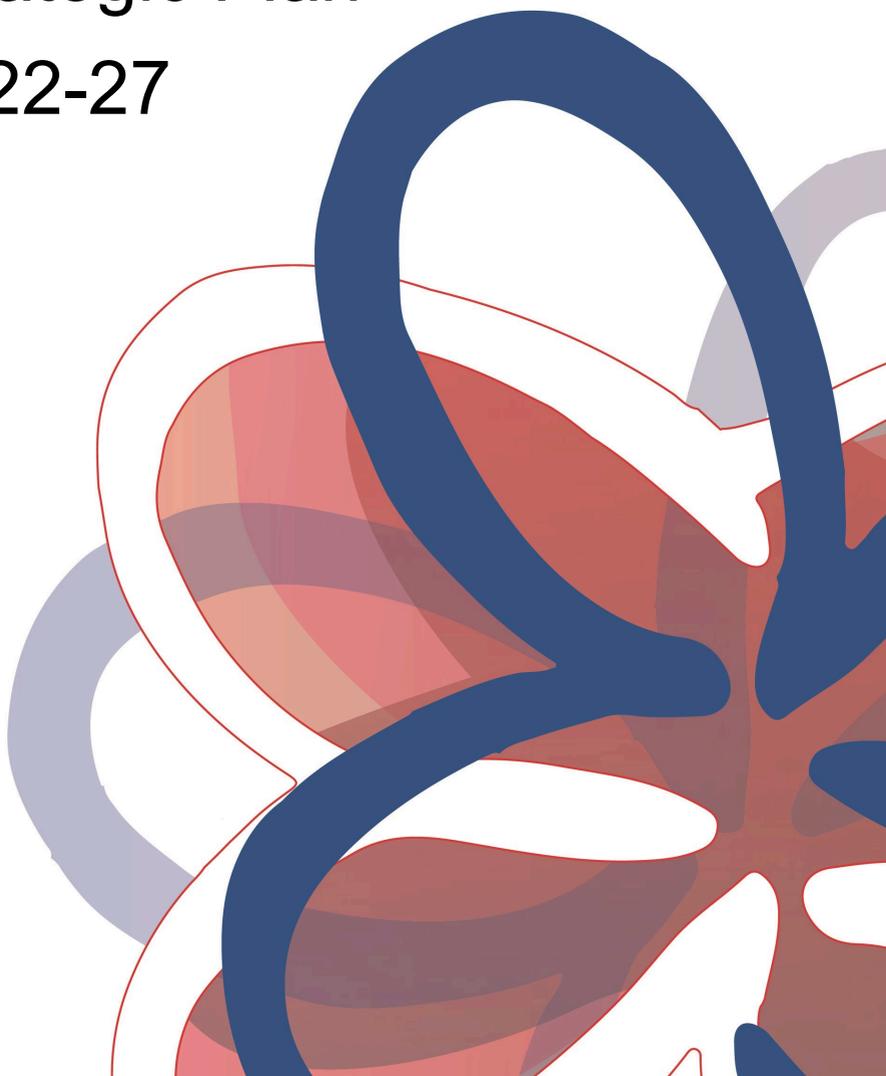




ACT
Mental Health
Consumer Network

Strategic Plan 2022-27



Background

Funded by ACT Health, ACT Mental Health Consumer Network is the peak systemic advocacy organisation for mental health consumers in the ACT.

The Network firmly identifies as an organisation for consumers, with consumers at its core, that aims to bring about a higher standard of mental health care in the region. This is achieved through the provision of a range of engagement opportunities including training and representative, advocacy and policy dialogue roles.

This strategic plan was developed by the Board, in consultation with members and the staffing team, to progress the work of the Network over the coming five years. The strategic planning process confirmed the following three priorities, which form the basis for this strategic plan:

Priorities

Priority One: Grow and strengthen advocacy grounded in consumer lived experience

Priority Two: Increase, engage and support the membership

Priority Three: Further develop organisational capacity

Vision

A community of connected voices achieving positive change.

Statement of Purpose

To advocate all means to improve and enhance systems, services 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; and
- Meaningful inclusion.

Guiding Principles

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

Context

The Network operates within the ACT mental health sector across government, non-government and community policy spheres.

Over the last three years the Network has provided a powerful, coherent voice for consumers in the ACT. The Network seeks opportunities to work collaboratively with like-minded agencies; and to identify innovative funding opportunities in order to meet the increasing demand for consumer and organisational representation.

This strategic plan, developed in consultation with members, provides a blueprint of action for the Network's workers and Board throughout 2022-27.

The Network employs a small team of highly skilled workers to facilitate the important work of the Network. Their work is supported by a dedicated group of elected individuals, predominantly consumers, who volunteer their time and effort to govern the Network during their time on the Board.

The work of the Network is made possible by the commitment and determination of members who regularly engage in policy dialogue, representative opportunities and general discussion.

Priority One

Grow and Strengthen
Advocacy

Grounded in Consumer
Lived Experience

Strategies

- **Evaluate and strengthen** processes for reaching consumers
- **Review and expand** training programs for consumers
- **Draw on** the interests and expertise of members and others
- **Broaden and promote** opportunities for engagement in systemic advocacy
- **Advocate** proactively, as well as reactively

Priority Two

Increase, Engage
and Support
the Membership

Strategies

- **Develop and enhance** processes and systems for involvement
- **Expand** our reach to increase diversity
- **Encourage** participation through a broad range of opportunities offered in flexible ways

Priority Three

Further Develop Organisational Capacity

Strategies

- **Elevate** our presence and credibility
- **Recognise and develop** the roles of workers and Board members
- **Cultivate** a supportive, mentally healthy workplace
- **Foster** a culture of collaboration
- **Explore** innovative funding options

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