

Tina Smith
Hunter Mental Health
Psychiatric Rehabilitation Service
Hunter Area Health Service

Mental Health NGO Partnerships in the Hunter

Hunter Area Health Service

- 521,000 people, 25,000km² area, 13 Local Government Areas;
- 8.4% of the NSW population;
- 60% of the population resides in Newcastle and Lake Macquarie;
- Unique mix of urban/regional & rural communities; and
- Geographic area is larger than all other metropolitan areas combined!

Hunter Mental Health

- The mission of Hunter Mental Health (HMH) is to enhance the community's health through the provision of a comprehensive mental health service;
- Annual budget of about \$43 million in 2000/2001;
- Employs about 600 FTE staff in more than 20 locations;
- Operates two acute inpatient MHS;
 - James Fletcher Hospital - stand alone
 - Maitland Mental Health Unit - integrated
- Operates one non-acute inpatient MHS;
 - Morisset Hospital
- Funds seven NGOs to provide MHS.

Psychiatric Rehabilitation Service

The mission of PRS is to promote recovery from mental illness through the provision of high quality clinical rehabilitation interventions, consultancies and partnerships.

Partnerships

- National & state strategic directions;
- To prevent and reduce disability associated with mental disorder;
- Key partners:
 - The Community;
 - Consumers & Carers;
 - General Practitioners;
 - Other Government Departments; and
 - NGOs.

Health-funded NGOs Providing MHS in the Hunter

Historical

- Association of Family & Friends of the Mentally Ill (ARAFMI); and
- Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association (PRA).

Recent

- Kaiyu Clubhouse;
- Life Without Barriers;
- Schizophrenia Fellowship;
- Richmond Fellowship;
- Hunter Joblink; and
- Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association.

Other NGOs

- Home and Community Care (HACC);
 - eg. Homecare, Meals on Wheels Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP);
 - eg. homeless, domestic violence, youth services Department of Ageing, Disability & Homecare (DADHC);
 - Disability Support Program, Boarding House Reform, new initiatives (eg, SAS)
- Housing, employment, drug & alcohol, youth, aged care, and other social NGOs.

Hunter MH NGO Peak Body

- Hunter Branch of the NSW Association for Mental Health;
- Role of the Mental Health Coordinating Council; and
- Hunter Mental Health NGO Network.

Enhancement Funding to NGOs

- Has allowed a new era in NGO partnerships
- NSW NGO Grant Program Guidelines
- Expression of Interest (EoI) Process
- Year 1 Projects (2000-2001)

1) Accommodation Support

HMH PRS Residential Rehab sites in Newcastle & Lake Macquarie transitioned to the Richmond Fellowship:

- 8 sites & 36 residents;
- Low to medium support; and
- \$230,000 per annum.

2) Vocational Support

- Need to establish vocational services in the Lake Macquarie LGA;
- Hunter Joblink provide fully VETAB accredited training;
- Opportunity to re-open canteen for consumers & staff at Morisset Hospital;
- Conduct Needs Analysis; and
- \$71,000 in 2000/2001.

3) Disability Support

- Largest of the new programs;
- Initial focus on Newcastle and Lake Macquarie;
- 3 types of services:
 - Accommodation Support;
 - Community Access
 - Centre-Based Activities
- Services delivered by PRA; and
- \$250,000 per annum.

Goals of Partnership

- More efficiently & effectively coordinate care for consumers;
- Build upon the current research-based knowledge as to what constitutes best practise; and
- Explore and enhance the interface between specialist MHS, the GP & the NGO sector in the Hunter.

Care Coordination

- Joint assessments & clinical review meetings;
- Joint training/educational opportunities;
- Consideration of joint programming;

- Coordinated efforts to gather data on unmet regional needs; and
- Coordinated strategic planning to address unmet need.

How Will We Know If It's Working?

- Customer satisfaction;
- Evidence based evaluation;
- Performance Agreements;
 - Performance Indicators/throughputs vs Evaluation/outcomes;
- Effective interface between specialist MHS, the GP and NGOs in the Hunter?
and
- Mental Health Outcome and Assessment Tools (MHOAT).

Progressing the Partnership

- HH & HMM Strategic Plan;
- HH & HMM Business Plan;NGO Partnership Strategy;- Links to service planning, delivery, evaluation
 - Enhancing coordination of care
- Draft Guidelines for Consumer & Community Participation.