Mental health services are changing. The Australian Government announced in November 2015 its intention to move towards a person-centred whole-of-care approach to mental health based on localised decision-making. It has re-directed $365m in 2016/2017 away from the hospital sector and $200m from the drug and alcohol sector to pilot personalized models of care in regions, to be commissioned through, but not delivered by, 31 Primary Health Networks (PHNs).

This money will go towards individualized care packages, and alternatives to fee-for-service provision. The Commonwealth acknowledges that fee-for-service systems provide no incentive for practitioners and providers to develop the capacity of consumers for self-care and self-direction, nor do they enable consumers to support each other in their self-care.

The Consumer and Carer Co-Design Initiative in Mental Health is a national project to enable large numbers of consumers and carers to co-design and co-produce community-based mental health services with PHNs, service providers and practitioners. Consumers and carers can no longer allow the design and implementation of services to be done exclusively by governments, providers and practitioners. Consumers and carers have a right to participate in shaping these services and initiate
the processes by which this is done properly, respectfully, and without tokenism.

This Conference will explore how consumers and carers can co-design mental health services. It is a participative and interactive event.

Consumers, carers, friends and families, support organisations, community groups, services, practitioners, researchers and policy makers are warmly invited to participate.

CLICK HERE to register.

CLICK HERE for the program.

‘Nothing about us without us’ is a fundamental human right, but research evidence shows that it is also a smart way to run big human systems like mental health services.

When services are better at wrapping around the person, rather than expecting the person to ‘be compliant’, we all win – consumers get more person-centred care that helps them fulfil their own unique potential, family member support for the consumer’s recovery journey is recognised and valued, staff working in services experience more job satisfaction as they work with rather than on consumers, and the taxpayer gets better value-for-money as services improve their support for recovery and self-management. How can this transformation take place? Co-design is the best approach we have. Co-produced knowledge which blends lived experience and professional expertise is more ecologically valid, co-delivered training produces experiential learning (which is how adults change), and co-designed services address access inequities and reduce waste.

There is a need for fundamental transformation of mental health services and systems, and Australia has the potential to rise to be an international leader!

Mike Slade
Professor of Mental Health Recovery and Social Inclusion
University of Nottingham

Further Information

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Two Days in March 2016

This conference on Tuesday 22 March 2016 forms part of a series of reform events hosted by Civil Society Australia in 2016. Two events will be held in March 2016. Participants may attend one or both of these as they wish.

Monday 21 March 2016
Reforming NDIS
Revolutionising Disability Services

Tuesday 22 March 2016
Reforming Mental Health
Consumer and Carer Co-Design

CLICK HERE for further information.

Venue

The Angliss Conference Centre is located in the Melbourne CBD, on the corner of LaTrobe and King Streets, on the fifth floor. It is close to train and tram services. Flagstaff railway station is one block away in LaTrobe St, and Southern Cross station is three blocks away in Spencer St. Trams 23, 24, 30, 34, and City Circle run along LaTrobe Street.

There are numerous accommodation options close by, to suit all budgets.

Start and Finish Times

Both events begin at 9.15am, finishing at 5.00pm.

CLICK HERE to register for one or both of these events.

Further Information

CLICK HERE for further information.

CLICK HERE for Civil Society Australia website.