

The purpose of the PHN CEO Cooperative MHAOD Working Group is to support PHNs in leading the implementation of mental health reform in Australia through an active and effective partnership between the PHN network and national mental health peak organisations, professional bodies and organisations. This action plan will seek to include alcohol and other drug treatment issues as appropriate, however we recognise that at times the issues for AOD treatment are distinct from mental health, and that stakeholders at the national level are largely different from those in mental health.

Mental Health Reform

Position PHNs as regional commissioning bodies for mental health, suicide prevention and alcohol and other drug treatment.

- Consider the recommendations of the Productivity Commission report and work with government on implementation.
- Actively contribute to the National Mental Health Commission's Vision 2030 and Roadmap and its implementation.
- Working with state and territory governments, develop an approach to pooled budgets and co-commissioning at the regional level.
- Contribute to the development of various national initiatives under the 5th National Plan (e.g. workforce, children, preventative health, primary care).

Outcomes/Outputs

- PHNs are tasked by government with regional commissioning of MHAOD services in partnership with LHNs.
- Participation in and submissions to reform processes.

National Stakeholders

Maintain contact and build relationships with national stakeholders (i.e. peaks, professional associations and national organisations).

- Actively participate in Mental Health Australia, the peak body for mental health.
- Develop national working agreements between the PHC Cooperative and owners of national franchises funded through PHNs (e.g. headspace, beyond blue).
- Bring national stakeholders together to improve our operational relationship and drive reform implementation.
- National stakeholders to attend working group meetings to discuss issues of mutual interest.
- Participate in and support a range of projects and initiatives by national stakeholders.

- PHNs are recognised as capable commissioners and system managers.
- PHNs and national bodies work together to implement reform and deliver services.

PHN Stocktake

Promote the commissioning work of PHNs across Australia and work together on issues that need national consistency.

- Complete the stocktake of PHN mental health and suicide prevention activity (via contract with QUT).
- Agree and publish a final report (PHN full version and summary version for public release).
- Identify and progress issues arising from the stocktake, particularly joint or consistent approaches across PHNs.

- Increased recognition of the commissioning role of PHNs.
- Greater commissioning capacity.
- Final PHN report and public summary report

Department of Health

Work in partnership to develop, implement and review MHAOD programs delivered through PHNs.

- Establish ongoing strategic planning process for MHAOD programs, jointly between PHNs and DoH.
- Provide input into and feedback on new and existing programs (e.g. older people and mental health nursing, AoD treatment capacity building for GPs).
- Contribute to the stepped care workshop and a range of advisory and steering committees.

- PHNs are involved as partners in the MHAOD programs, not just contractors.
- Various submissions and participate in committees.

COVID

Share MHAOD responses to COVID-19 and build on positive reforms.

- Support the development and implementation of the National Mental Health Pandemic Response Plan.
- Share approaches to the implementation of COVID mental health responses, including additional funding for A&TSI, CALD, older people and psychosocial supports.
- Identify COVID changes that should continue (e.g. greater use of telehealth)

- PHNs support each other through COVID.
- Positive changes are continued.

Working Group

Provide a coordinating point for PHN MHAOD cooperative activity at a national level.

- Hold regular meetings of the working group, including preparing agenda, papers, minutes and reporting to the CEOs.
- Communicate to all PHNs (including MHAOD leads) re: the work of the working group and share significant and relevant information/updates.
- Ensure all PHNs are able to contribute to the working group and its actions.
- Provide a cooperative PHN response at a national level (e.g. consultations, representatives on committees)

- PHNs are actively involved in the working group.
- PHNs are informed about the working group and national developments.

Stakeholders:

- National Mental Health Commission
- National peak bodies (e.g. Mental Health Australia)
- Professional associations (e.g. Australian College of Mental Health Nurses, Australian Psychological Society)
- National service providers (e.g. headspace, beyond blue)