WA MENTAL HEALTH NGO INFORMATION DEVELOPMENT
TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

COMMUNIQUE 3

Meeting Date: 31 July 2013

Background

The WA Mental Health Non Government Organisation (NGO) Information Development Technical Working Group (TWG) was developed to assist the Mental Health Commission (the Commission) in the development of data specifications and implementation strategies that will allow the Commission and NGOs to meet State and National reporting requirements.

The fifth meeting of the TWG was held at the Commission on Wednesday 31 July 2013. The following key information development activities were addressed by the Technical Working Group.

Endorsements

The minutes from Meeting Three of the TWG were accepted with one minor amendment.

Agreements

Online data collection tool
- Commission to develop a communication and training program to introduce NGO staff to the online data collection tool.
- TWG members expressed their willingness to assist with testing the online collection tool.

Data definitions
- The TWG discussed and accepted the following data elements for inclusion into a data dictionary for people who use mental health services:
  - Living Arrangement (homelessness);
  - Residential type;
  - CaLD
    - Country of birth
    - Main language other than English spoken at home
    - Proficiency in spoken English
    - Indigenous status
    - Ancestry
  - Birthplace of parents
  - First language spoken
  - Languages spoken at home
  - Main language spoken at home
  - Religious affiliation
  - Year of arrival in Australia
Discussion

Occupation
It was agreed that further research by the Commission is required to clearly define and capture data elements associated with occupation.

Living arrangements
The Commission will investigate the suitability of the METeOR ‘address’ cluster and research other data collections to compare their definition of address.

Conditions of occupancy data definition was not broad enough to fully capture data which may be relevant and it was suggested that the Commission look at other data collections such as HACC and DSC and determine which definition they use.

Members noted that the importance of using data definitions which take cultural terminology into account. The Commission will investigate data sets which use Indigenous terminology and report back to the TWG at the next meeting.

Transgender
The Commission had consulted with Curtin University about defining transgender. The TWG agreed that the current national definition and values are acceptable for collecting basic information for statistical purposes but wished to explore this area further. The Commission will contact Gay and Lesbian Community Services (GLCS) and request their input.

Spirituality
Researching definitions of spirituality had revealed a concept that ‘evades simplistic definition’. The TWG agreed that spirituality is an important factor which impacts on mental health and wished to include this in the data dictionary. The Commission will develop a data element to capture the concept at a basic level which may help indicate the importance of capturing this information more holistically.

Cultural and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD)
A standard set of Cultural and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) data has been developed through consultation by the Australian Bureau of Statistics to measure cultural diversity. The TWG discussed and agreed to accept all the set into the data dictionary. Concern was raised about assessment for the proficiency in spoken English being self-reported. The Commission will investigate if another data element captures proficiency in English from the service provider’s perspective.

Next WA MH NGO Information Development TWG Meeting

The next Information Development TWG meeting will be held at the Mental Health Commission on the 13th of November 2013.

Further information can be obtained by contacting: Trevor Dare
Manager, Information Development
Performance and Reporting
Mental Health Commission
trevor.dare@mentalhealth.wa.gov.au