



NDIS and Mental Health – only 8 months to Scheme roll out, but still a lot of unknowns

The peak body for community managed mental health services held a forum today on the implementation of NDIS for mental health consumers and services.

'With over 140 people in attendance at today's forum, it is clear that mental health service providers are keen to get more information on the NDIS and how it will be implemented from 1 July 2016,' said Ms Kim Koop, VICSERV CEO.

'We welcomed the announcement on the Scheme roll out in September, and the greater certainty that this now gives mental health consumers, their families, workers and services about the future roll out of NDIS.'

'But we are waiting on the operational plans for the roll out of the Scheme in Victoria, and they may not be forthcoming until as late as December - this will not give organisations in the first region where NDIS will be implemented much time to get ready for the transition. In particular we need to information on the yet unresolved aspects of supporting people with mental illness, which have been subject to a number of review processes under the Agency's direction.'

The NDIA anticipates that each area will take up to 12 months to link in all eligible consumers with the NDIS, and provides assurance that current Commonwealth and State-funded services and programs will continue to run until eligible consumers commence their NDIS plans.

VICSERV has been invited to participate on the NDIS Implementation Task force, being convened by Special Minister of State, Gavin Jennings, and the Minister for Mental Health, Martin Foley.

'We look forward to this opportunity to engage with the Government on emerging full scheme roll out and operational issues, and on priorities for action.'

The areas of consideration for the Taskforce will include:

- Rollout, planning and implementation
- Workforce development
- Client participation
- Quality and safeguards
- Market engagement and development.

The first meeting of the NDIS Implementation Taskforce will be on 5 November, 2015.

'VICSERV will continue to work with Victoria's community mental health services during this time of transition to promote NDIS readiness, and ensure consumers continue to access high quality mental health services and support.'

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