



INTRODUCTION

Health Consumers Alliance (HCA) is the not-for-profit peak body for health consumers in South Australia. HCA considers health consumers to be community members who are, have been or are potential users of health services. HCA is membership driven and as such as is directed by a management committee elected from its membership.

As a peak body HCA's role is to promote and advocate its members' interests. HCA has chosen to do this in relation to mental health through developing a mental health framework that will provide multiple methods and avenues for community participation.

The Mental Health Taskforce (MHTF) has been a valuable first step in this evolutionary process with the development of the mental health framework informed by MHTF operations; the MHTF planning processes and the development of HCA's consumer participation position paper. This framework will supersede the Mental Health Taskforce and is outlined below.

MENTAL HEALTH FRAMEWORK

Purpose: To build an independent community voice on mental health and well being in SA

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	ACTIONS
<p>Issues Forum</p> <p>To hold open forums to hear from the community about their ideas, interests and issues around mental health and wellbeing.</p> <p>(Proactive)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gather information to be used in developing independent position on MH and wellbeing ▪ Engage with advocacy mechanisms such as the media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hold forums quarterly ie: 4 per year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2 metropolitan area ○ 2 rural & regional areas ▪ Translate information gathered into action points for advocacy ▪ Develop position paper on mental health and wellbeing in SA.
<p>Online Interface</p> <p>To open up opportunities for a broader spectrum of community to be engaged in discussions on mental health and wellbeing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To create a number of on-line based tools to gather community input on mental health and wellbeing in SA. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community driven open on-line forum to raise ideas, interests and issues. ○ Online surveys to solicit community response to issues raised by community members or service providers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop and implement online forum ▪ Develop and implement survey template
<p>Workshops</p> <p>To bring the community together to gather information for responding to particular mental health policy, legislation, programs and service delivery issues or other issues raised by community members</p> <p>(Reactive)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gather information to be used in developing independent position on MH and wellbeing ▪ Engage with advocacy mechanisms such as the media ▪ To respond to request for consumer perspectives from service providers 	<p>Hold annual workshop during Mental Health Week to review MH in SA over the past 12 months.</p> <p>Workshops as needed</p>

The Department of Health has contributed funds towards this program

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	ACTIONS
<p>Training</p> <p>To increase the skills, knowledge and capacity of the community in regards participation in decision making mental health and wellbeing in SA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide training and education opportunities for the community to gain skills, knowledge and experience in participation in health care decision making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Training offered on quarterly basis ie: 4 per year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2 metropolitan area ○ 2 rural & regional areas
<p>Networking</p> <p>To provide opportunities for community members who are actively interested and engaged in mental health and wellbeing in SA.</p> <p>To bring together HCA members and potential members engaged in mental health decision making structures and participatory mechanisms.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop a database of key contacts to access and inform consumer response to issues in health care decision making in mental health in SA. ▪ Hold meetings to bring together community members involved as representative on decision making structures to share ideas, interests and issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop and maintain key contact database ▪ Hold at least 2 meetings per year

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