



Australian Government

National Mental Health Commission

Draft National Consensus Statement on physical health of people living with a mental illness

Overview

Why a National Consensus Statement?

The requirement for the Australian health system to better meet the physical health care needs of people living with a mental illness has long been recognised in research and in practice.

Based on its previous work in this area - the *A Contributing Life: National Report Card* of 2012 and 2013, and *Contributing Lives, Thriving Communities: the 2014 National Review of Mental Health Programmes and Services* - the National Mental Health Commission in September 2015 initiated a project to develop a National Consensus Statement, which consolidates the views of diverse stakeholders committed to improving the physical health of people living with a mental illness.

The consultation process

A draft National Consensus Statement has been developed following an extensive consultation process, including advice from a group of experts, more than 30 key interviews, a workshop featuring over 60 organisations and individuals, and a literature and policy review.

We are now seeking final comments on the National Consensus Statement.

We are interested in:

- your comments on the draft National Consensus Statement, and
- organisations' commitment to action on the physical health of people living with a mental illness, and to the National Consensus Statement process (these questions will not be available to individuals).

As the National Consensus Statement will represent a commitment by endorsing organisations, responses from organisations intending to endorse the Statement will be prioritised in developing the final Statement.

Please access the online survey linked below to provide your views. The survey questions are also provided in a PDF version below. Microsoft Word and PDF versions of the draft National Consensus Statement are provided below, along with a draft Background Paper for reference.

The survey is open until 11.59pm on Friday 26 February 2016. If you have any queries, please contact Tom Abbott using the details provided.

Information about endorsement and what comes next

In the coming months, the National Consensus Statement will be finalised and sent to interested and relevant organisations for endorsement.

It is intended that the document will be uploaded to a website, accompanied by information about endorsing organisations, showing their public commitment to taking action to improve the physical health of people with a mental illness.

In parallel, the Commission will be working with the Commonwealth and jurisdictional governments to seek their support for the

National Consensus Statement, including considering appropriate action that could be included in the Fifth National Mental Health Plan.

Later in 2016, the Commission will work to develop supporting materials for specific audiences, including people with a lived experience of mental illness, their families and support people, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Once finalised, the Commission will continue to promote the statement, and monitor the impact of the commitment to action demonstrated by organisations that endorse it.

Your details

1 What is your name?

(Required)

2 What is your phone number?

(Required)

3 What is your email address?

(Required)

4 Are you responding to the survey as a representative of an organisation or as an individual?

(Required)

Please select only one item

Representative of an organisation Individual

Your organisation

5 What is the name of the organisation you are representing?

(Required)

6 What is your position with the organisation?

(Required)

Your organisation's views on endorsing the National Consensus Statement

7 Is your organisation committed to taking action to address the physical health of people living with a mental illness?

(Required)

Please select only one item

Yes No Undecided I don't know

8 Do you have any examples of initiatives your organisation is already undertaking to improve the physical health of people living with a mental illness?

9 Is your organisation intending to endorse the National Consensus Statement on the physical health of people living with mental ill health?

(Required)

Please select only one item

Yes No Undecided I don't know

10 What factors will affect your organisation's decision about whether to endorse the National Consensus Statement?

Your comments on the draft National Consensus Statement

This section seeks your comments on the current draft National Consensus Statement.

In any comments, please provide the page number you are referring to (as indicated in the footer).

If you do not yet have a copy of the draft National Consensus Statement, you may access the Word version and the PDF version by clicking on the links below:

Word version <https://consultations.health.gov.au/national-mental-health-commission/594530eb/user_uploads/national-consensus-statement---online-consultation-draft---9-feb-2016.docx> - clicking on this link will download the file to your computer for you to read offline - you will need a program which can open Word documents to do this.

PDF version <https://consultations.health.gov.au/national-mental-health-commission/594530eb/user_uploads/national-consensus-statement---online-consultation-draft.pdf> - clicking on this link will open a new window to view the PDF.

11 Please provide any comments on the six elements of the draft National Consensus Statement, identified under 'Our Consensus' (pages 2-3) and on associated pages.

12 Please identify any important omissions or suggested additions to improve the National Consensus Statement. (Please provide the relevant page number, as indicated in the footer.)

13 Please identify any errors in the draft National Consensus Statement that you perceive require correction. (Please provide the relevant page number, as indicated in the footer.)

14 Please provide any other comments on the draft National Consensus Statement.