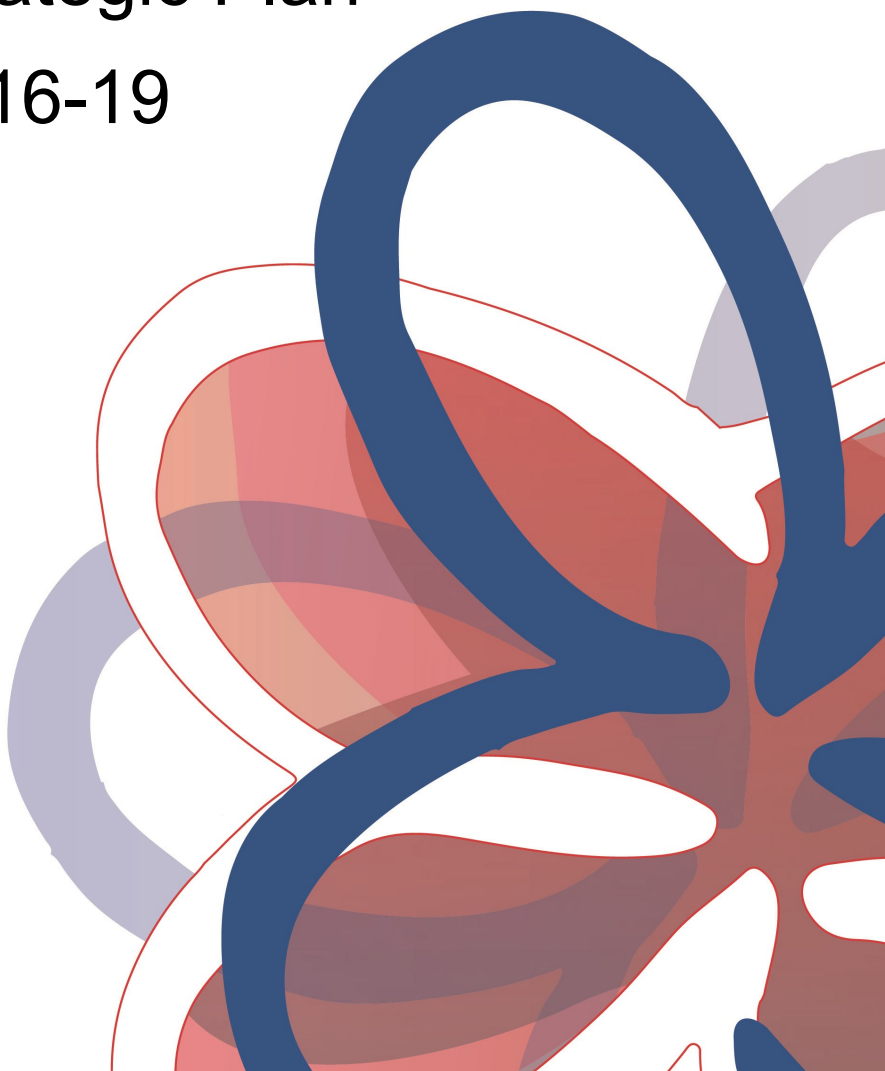




ACT  
Mental Health  
Consumer Network

# Strategic Plan 2016-19



# Background

Funded by ACT Health, ACT Mental Health Consumer Network is the peak systemic advocacy organisation for mental health consumers in the ACT.

The Network firmly identifies as an organisation for consumers, with consumers at its core, that aims to bring about a higher standard of mental health care in the region. This is achieved through the provision of a range of engagement opportunities including training and representative, advocacy and policy dialogue roles.

This strategic plan was developed by the Board, in consultation with members and the staffing team, to progress the work of the Network over the coming three years. The strategic planning process identified the following three priorities, which form the basis for this strategic plan:

## Priorities

**Priority One:** Grow and strengthen advocacy grounded in consumer lived experience

**Priority Two:** Increase, engage and support the membership

**Priority Three:** Further develop organisational capacity

# Vision

A community of connected voices achieving positive change.

## Statement of Purpose

To advocate all means to improve and enhance systems, services and practices for consumers in the ACT by:

- Discovering and promoting the collective voice;
- Facilitating and supporting consumer participation at all levels of decision-making; and
- Ensuring a commitment to consumer-driven recovery.

## Values

- Empowerment
- Respect
- Courage
- Social justice; and
- Meaningful inclusion.

# Guiding Principles

Our guiding principles reflect our values of empowerment, respect, courage, social justice; and meaningful inclusion. They reflect what Board, members and staff expect of each other in their work together and how we work with others in our representative, advocacy and collaborative capacities.

**V**alue of lived experience

**O**pen dialogue and advocacy

**I**ncreased self-awareness

**C**onsumer-driven recovery

**E**nsure social justice and human rights are upheld

**S**ense of community

## Context

The Network operates within the ACT mental health sector across government, non-government and community policy spheres.

Over the last three years the Network has provided a powerful, coherent voice for consumers in the ACT. The Network seeks opportunities to work collaboratively with like-minded agencies; and to identify innovative funding opportunities in order to meet the increasing demand for consumer and organisational representation.

This strategic plan, developed in consultation with members, provides a blueprint of action for the Network's staff and Board throughout 2016-19.

The Network employs a small team of highly skilled staff to facilitate the important work of the Network. The staffing team, our volunteers and their work are supported by a dedicated group of elected individuals, predominantly consumers, who volunteer their time and effort to govern the Network during their time on the Board.

The work of the Network is made possible by the commitment and determination of members who regularly engage in policy dialogue, representative opportunities and general discussion.

# Priority One

Grow and Strengthen  
Advocacy

Grounded in Consumer  
Lived Experience

# Strategies

- **Evaluate and strengthen** processes for reaching consumers
- **Review and expand** training programs for consumers
- **Draw on** the interests and expertise of members and others
- **Broaden and promote** opportunities for engagement in advocacy
- **Advocate** proactively, as well as reactively

# Priority Two

Increase, Engage  
and Support  
the Membership



# Strategies

- **Develop and enhance** processes and systems for involvement
- **Expand** our reach to increase diversity
- **Encourage** participation through a broad range of opportunities

# Priority Three

Further Develop  
Organisational Capacity

# Strategies

- **Elevate** our presence and credibility
- **Recognise and develop** the roles of staff and Board members
- **Cultivate** a supportive, mentally healthy workplace
- **Preserve** our history to **enhance** our future
- **Foster** a culture of collaboration
- **Explore** innovative funding options

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