



# Network Bulletin

## 11 Oct 2018

Welcome to our email bulletin for this week. If you are unable to open any links or attachments, please contact the Network on 6230 5796 or email [actmhcn@actmhcn.org.au](mailto:actmhcn@actmhcn.org.au).

Of particular note in this bulletin, the Network would like to draw your attention to the following:

- Reminder responses to Section 85 of ACT Mental Health Act consultation closing tomorrow;
- Announcement on NDIS Psychosocial Disability Stream; and
- Position vacancies, including 2 vacancies for the ACT Recovery College (4.4)

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## 1. Drop-In Notice

The Network is very pleased to offer a venue for consumers to drop-in for a chat and a cuppa, or to use the computers or phones for their self-advocacy needs. We regret that on some occasions Drop-in needs to be closed and we are committed to informing members as early as possible when this will occur. The Network apologises for any inconvenience caused by Drop-In closures.

### Drop-In is open Thursdays 10am to 1pm

Once or twice per month from February through to the end of November we will aim to arrange information and/or support sessions for consumers to encourage attendance and ensure consumers are receiving information that is important to them.

If you have any ideas for session topics, or if you have a skill you would like to share, please contact Pema by email on [programs@actmhc.org.au](mailto:programs@actmhc.org.au), phone the office on 02 6230 5796 or let us know during Drop-In.

## Drop-In Closure

Drop-In will be closed on Thursday 25 October 2018, due to our Mental Health Month event, A Beary Lovely Morning being held on that day. We apologise for any inconvenience caused by this closure.

## 2. Upcoming Network events

### 2.1 A Beary Lovely Morning

A notice to members that our Mental Health Month is now completely booked out.

## 3. For Your Information

### 3.1 Reminder: Section 85 of ACT Mental Health Act consultation closing soon

A reminder that people now have until the end of this week (Friday 12 October 2018) to respond to the initial online survey or to provide a submission concerning the impact of the increased the period of further emergency detention from a maximum of seven days to 11 days.

Here are the links for your convenience.

[About the consultations](#)

[The online survey](#)

Submissions can be emailed to [mhactreview@act.gov.au](mailto:mhactreview@act.gov.au)

There will be a further round of consultations early 2019, where people will be able to comment on the provisions and implementation of the Act more broadly – through an online survey, submissions, interviews and group discussions.

### 3.2 ACT Senior Practitioner Seminar Series

The inaugural ACT Senior Practitioner Seminar Series event, will be held in Belconnen on 2 November 2018.

The seminar will showcase evidence based practice across service settings for the reduction and elimination of restrictive practice.

Topics will include:

- ACT transition to National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) quality and safeguards (Presented by Dr Jeffrey Chan, National Senior Practitioner and Donna White, Assistant Director Behaviour Support, NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission)
- Eleven years of research in Victoria (Presented by Dr Frank Lambrick, Senior Practitioner, Victoria)
- Restraint-free environments (Presented by Associate Professor Paul Ramcharan, RMIT )
- Lessons from the past for the future - a journey from restriction to participation (Presented by Charley Hodgson, Acting Senior Practitioner - Disability, Tasmania)
- Reducing restrictive practice in care and protection of children (Presented by Jodie Griffiths-Cook, Public Advocate and Children and Young People Commissioner for the ACT)
- Queensland Centre of Excellence (Presented by Professor Karen Nankervis, Chair of the Centre of Excellence for Clinical Innovation and Behaviour Support and Executive Director, Disability Practice and Service Improvement)
- Evidence-based approaches for reducing and eliminating restrictive practices (Presented by Sharon Paley, Manager in State Operations, Queensland Department of Education)
- Reducing restraint in schools (Presented by Dr Shiralee Poed, Senior Lecturer, Melbourne Graduate School of Education)

This event is being offered free of charge, but places are strictly limited. Please register your attendance via Eventbrite, at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/act-senior-practitioner-17639159808>

There are five sessions, which must be booked separately. You can book into as many or as few sessions as you like, subject to availability.

Feel free to circulate the attached flyer to your own networks.

### 3.3 Support Independent Living Vacancies



**Supported Independent Living**

We currently have vacancies in both ACT and NSW

- max 3 residents per home
- boutique shared accommodation
- highly trained staff

0438 280 106

**NDIS Registered**



### 3.4 Announcement on NDIS Psychosocial Disability Stream

Forwarded email from the NDIA included below for your information.

Good Afternoon,

I am writing to inform you about a range of NDIS improvements to help people with psychosocial disability.

The improvements form the foundation of a new 'psychosocial disability stream' to be progressively implemented across Australia. This stream will map across both the NDIS standard pathway and the complex support needs pathway, which you have been briefed on at previous meetings.

The key components of the psychosocial disability stream include:

- employing specialised planners and LACs to ensure participants have access to psychosocial expertise
- building workforce capability through training and the establishment of teams that include mental health expertise to support people engage with the NDIS and access the Scheme
- strengthening the connection between existing mental health services and NDIA staff and partners
- focusing on recovery-based planning and episodic needs
- assisting potential participants who are hard to reach to engage with the NDIA.

This reform is a critical step forward. It addresses the sector's key concerns and outlines a better way forward for the NDIS, based on recovery principles. It will prioritise the development of staff skill sets about the needs of people requiring mental health support.

Importantly, the design of the new stream is the result of successful collaboration with Mental Health Australia and extensive engagement with participants, families and carers, government services, NDIA partners and providers. With the sector's ongoing support, we

are confident the NDIS will now more specifically address the support and communication needs of participants with psychosocial disability.

The new stream incorporates the majority of the 29 recommendations made by [Mental Health Australia](#) in a report released in late September.

The new psychosocial disability stream is part of a range of work being undertaken by the NDIA to improve the NDIS pathways—the experience participants and providers have with the NDIS.

The media release about these changes is available at <https://ndis.gov.au/news/mental-health-announcement.html>

I will continue to keep the National Mental Health Sector Reference Group updated as more detail becomes available. You are welcome to share this email with your networks.

If you need further information about the proposed changes in the meantime, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,  
Gerry Naughtin  
Strategic Adviser Mental Health  
Strategic Advice, Research and Inclusion Division  
National Disability Insurance Agency  
T 0406 532 486 E [Gerry.Naughtin2@ndis.gov.au](mailto:Gerry.Naughtin2@ndis.gov.au)

For information about psychosocial disability and the NDIS:  
<https://www.ndis.gov.au/psychosocial/products.html>

## 4. Position Vacancies

### 4.1 Advocate (ACT Disability, Aged and Carer Advocacy Service)

ADACAS is a non-profit, community-based organisation that is dedicated to providing advocacy for people with disability, including people with psychosocial disability experiencing mental ill health, and for older people and carers.

The position will predominately involve providing individual advocacy for older people and people with disability living in the community.

The successful applicant will have:

- a demonstrated understanding of and commitment to social justice and human rights for marginalised and/or vulnerable people;
- effective negotiation, communication and problem solving skills;
- strong relationship building skills;
- a proven ability to understand and respond to complex situations.
- experience in working with people with disabilities or older people; and
- relevant experience

- relevant qualifications are desirable.

For the selection criteria and further information about how to apply, contact ADACAS on:

Phone: 6242 5060

Email: [adacas@adacas.org.au](mailto:adacas@adacas.org.au)

Applicants that do not provide a response addressing the selection criteria will not be considered. Applications are encouraged from people with disability, older people, and from people with Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds.

**Applications Close: 11:59pm, Monday 15th October 2018.**

## 4.2 Mental Health Recovery Support Worker/s (Woden Community Service)

Woden Community Service (WCS) currently have a number of vacancies available for enthusiastic and compassionate Mental Health Recovery Support Workers.

As a Mental Health Recovery Support Worker, you will use recovery-focused and capacity-building approaches, working with participants to achieve their goals. Support may include a variety of activities, including support to assist participants:

- Develop skills to maximise self-efficacy, resilience and greater independence,
- Engage in a range of social, educational and recreational activities,
- Increase participation in the community,
- Develop and maintain relationships,
- Maintain health and wellbeing,
- Work towards paid employment or volunteer opportunities.

The successful applicant will be empathetic and act in a manner that is supportive and person-centered. They will also be able to build supportive, respectful relationships with people experiencing mental illness, their families and external community based programs, as well as ensuring a high-quality service by providing punctual, reliable and consistent support to all stakeholders.

A minimum Certificate III in Community Services in a related field, or a willingness to obtain minimum qualifications, would be highly desirable.

To apply submit the following to be considered for this position to [careers@wcs.org.au](mailto:careers@wcs.org.au)

- Your resume
- Cover letter addressing the selection criteria (see attached)

If you would like to discuss this role further, contact Leanne Heald, Team Leader, NDIS Mental Health Service Delivery on 02 6221 9533.

### 4.3 Community Programs/Wellbeing Worker & StandBy Support After Suicide Coordinator (SupportLink Australia Ltd)

SupportLink Australia is currently recruiting for the following 2 positions:

- Community Programs/Wellbeing Worker; and
- Standby Support After Suicide Coordinator

SupportLink Australia's programs include the ACT Ambulance Wellbeing Service, Standby Support After Suicide Service and ACT Policing Referral Management Service.

Both positions are Classified: SCHADS Social, and Community, Home Care and Disability Services Level 5.

Remuneration: Generous above award annualised salary will be negotiated with the successful applicant commensurate with qualifications and experience plus the opportunity for salary sacrificing. Generous employment conditions apply.

Supportlink is a national company offering a friendly work environment based in Erindale ACT.

#### 4.3.1 Community Programs/Wellbeing Worker

This is a full or part time position (negotiable) requiring tertiary qualifications (Social Work, Counselling or Psychology) as well as experience working within the community support sector. The role requires:

1. Working alongside emergency service personnel providing direct support to employees and their families of the ACT Ambulance Service;
2. A comprehensive understanding of the impact of trauma and grief supporting people impacted by suicide; and
3. Collaborating with community agencies and key stakeholders to ensure people referred by ACT Policing are directed to the most appropriate service for support.

Excellent communication skills are required as well as a good work ethic and commitment to work as part of a team. A commitment to deadlines as well as a methodical approach to daily tasks is essential. The position is not suitable for someone seeking a high volume of client work.

#### HOW TO APPLY:

All applications must include a CV and covering letter addressing the selection criteria (no more than 3 pages) emailed it to [Donna@supportlink.com.au](mailto:Donna@supportlink.com.au) by **18 October 2018**.

Applications that do not meet the above requirements will not be considered.

For any queries in relation to this position or a copy of the Duty Statement, please contact: [Donna@supportlink.com.au](mailto:Donna@supportlink.com.au)

#### 4.3.2 StandBy Support After Suicide Coordinator (SupportLink Australia Ltd)

The StandBy Support After Suicide Service is Australia's leading suicide postvention program dedicated to supporting people and communities impacted by suicide. This role is

assisted by a team of crisis support staff. This diverse role involves community development and the provision of sensitive crisis support.

This is a full-time position requiring tertiary qualifications in the human services field (social work, counselling or psychology), experience in community development, crisis intervention, trauma, grief and loss. Excellent communication skills are required as well as a good work ethic and commitment to work as part of a team. A commitment to deadlines as well as a methodical approach to daily tasks is essential. The position is not suitable for someone seeking a high volume of client work.

#### **HOW TO APPLY**

For any queries in relation to this position or a copy of the Position Description please contact: [Donna@supportlink.com.au](mailto:Donna@supportlink.com.au)

Before applying, please read the Position Description carefully to assess your eligibility and suitability for the position.

All applications must include a CV and covering letter addressing the selection criteria (no more than 3 pages) to [Donna@supportlink.com.au](mailto:Donna@supportlink.com.au) by **31 October 2018**.

#### **4.4 Expressions of Interest: Recovery College Manager & Education Manager**

Mental Health Community Coalition ACT (MHCC ACT), as the Lead Agency of a Consortium, is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) in two management positions to lead a trial of a Recovery College in the ACT.

EOIs for these positions are being re-opened due to a too small number of applications received in the first round.

#### **What is a Recovery College?**

A Recovery College is an innovative place of learning, connection and hope for people living with mental illness, their carers, families and friends. Colleges operate in a similar way to adult learning centres but with a focus on mental health. Each College offers a range of classes including on understanding and managing various mental health conditions, life skills, carer needs, and aspects of the mental health system.

The courses are co-designed and co-produced by people with lived experience and mental health professionals, and are also co-delivered in class.

Further information on recovery colleges can be found on the MHCC ACT [website](#)

#### **What is the Recovery College Trial?**

The ACT Government has allocated funding for a 2 year trial of a Recovery College in the ACT. The project will be delivered by a Consortium combining the expertise of ACT Mental Health Consumer Network, Carers ACT, Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT), ACT Health, and MHCC ACT.

The Trial will run from September 2018 to September 2020. It is anticipated that the Recovery College will open for the first semester in February 2019 with the number of courses gradually increasing over the following semesters. The location of the Canberra Recovery College is likely to be on the Bruce CIT Campus.

### **What are the positions available?**

The Recovery College Manager will be responsible for development and delivery of the project, with a particular focus on governance and administrative structures, venue and equipment, and other operational requirements. The RC Manager will also implement an evaluation framework (in development) and actively seek opportunities for further funding.

The Recovery College Education Manager will be responsible for development and delivery of College curriculum and courses, including development of course co-design and co-production processes and student learning plans. The Education Manager will provide student liaison, and source and oversee student placements and volunteers.

Both positions are time-limited 24 month contracts.

For more detail on the positions, please see the full position descriptions:

[PD Recovery College Manager](#)

[PD Recovery College Education Manager](#)

The Recovery College Manager will recruit an Admin Officer to complete the paid staff team for the Recovery College trial.

### **How to apply**

Having regard to the Position Description, please send a statement setting out why you are the best person for the role (max 2 pages) and a current CV to [admin@mhccact.org.au](mailto:admin@mhccact.org.au) (Word or PDF) by 12 midday **Tuesday 23 October 2018**. Please include the details of two referees.

This process aims for a quick appointment and a starting date ASAP. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an informal discussion with the selection panel, rather than a formal interview.

A current Working with Vulnerable People card and police check or the willingness to obtain them is a requirement for these positions.

For more information about the positions contact Simon Viereck on (02) 6249 7756 or email [simon.viereck@mhccact.org.au](mailto:simon.viereck@mhccact.org.au)