



## **Community Mental Health Australia Builds Connection among D2DL Providers**

Community Mental Health Australia (CMHA) has initiated a two year, national project that will facilitate the identification and dissemination of good-practice models among Day to Day Living (D2DL) Program providers. CMHA is the national body formed by mental health peak bodies across Australia. The project will consist of several inter-state forums and the development of a web-based communications platform.

The D2DL Program is available in 64 sites across Australia and funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA), with a commitment of \$45.5 M over five years to enhance the support available to those who:

- Have a severe and persistent mental illness which limits their ability to function in the community;
- Experience social isolation in the community due to a lack of social supports
- Have a level of disability which will restrict their capacity to obtain employment in the labour market in the foreseeable future.

Community Mental Health Australia will undertake to improve outcomes for people who experience mental illness by focusing on increased collaboration and connection amongst Community Mental Health organisations, with a focus on the Day to Day Living Program.

The Queensland Alliance will take the lead role in this CMHA project. Newly appointed as the Project Manager, Melody Edwardson is the former Industry Development Manager at the Queensland Alliance. Through her roles at the Queensland Alliance, and working in Community Mental Health over the past 14 years, Ms Edwardson has a broad knowledge base and understanding of Community Mental Health. Also to be appointed is a Knowledge Manager, to create web-based information sharing practices for the project. A Project Administrator has been appointed and will commence 1 November to coordinate physical workshops and meetings of program providers. While based in Queensland, this project will operate to connect providers on a national level.

The project's goals for D2DL providers and the broader Community Mental Health sector are to:

- Increase linkages
- Increase information exchange
- Identify, document and promote good practice
- Support providers to develop their workforce
- Strengthen and promote consumer participation in organisational planning, management and evaluation.

Community Mental Health Australia (CMHA) also continues to collaborate with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) to develop a position and advocacy paper 'what is Community Mental Health and why it is important to Australia's health and social inclusion goals?' The research paper seeks to increase Government and the sector's understanding of community mental health, by highlighting models of care that are examples of good practice and innovation and detailing how they incorporate and promote principles of recovery and social inclusion. Currently, 24 organisations from throughout Australia are being profiled, followed by an interview process to gain as much information about each organisation as possible.

If you would like more information about Community Mental Health Australia, visit  
**[www.cmha.org.au](http://www.cmha.org.au)**