

Call for Expressions of Interest

Family and Carer Representatives on the Families and Carers Sub-Committee of the NSW Mental Health Program Council

Expressions of interest are invited for family and carer representatives to nominate for the Families and Carers Sub-Committee of the NSW Mental Health Program Council. Representatives are sought from each of the following categories:

- A person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent who has been a family member and/or carer of someone with a mental illness (2 positions).
- A person from a culturally or linguistically diverse background who has been a family member and/or carer of someone with a mental illness.
- A person working in the NGO sector who has been a family member and/or carer of someone with a mental illness.
- A young person who has been a family member and/or carer of someone with a mental illness (2 positions).
- An older person who has been a family member and/or carer of someone with a mental illness.
- A person who has been a family member and/or carer of an older person with a mental illness.
- A person who has been a family member and/or carer of a person with a comorbidity of mental illness and intellectual disability.
- A person who has been a family member and/or carer of someone with a mental illness who has been in a forensic mental health service.
- A person who has been a family member and/or carer of someone with a mental illness who currently resides in a rural or remote Area Health Service.
- A person who has been a family member and/or carer of someone with a mental illness who currently resides in a metropolitan Area Health Service.
- A person who is currently employed as a mental health carer advocate in an Area Health Service.
- Two (2) non-government organisation positions representing Family and Carer Mental Health Program support services.

The role of family and carer representative will be to represent the families and carers of people with a mental illness at the Families and Carers Sub-Committee, and to articulate family and carer perspectives using system advocacy skills in a state and national policy development context.

Family and Carer representatives will need to be available to attend three (3) meetings per year at the Department of Health in North Sydney. They will also be required to read and sometimes comment on material in between meetings.

Applicants must meet all of the general selection criteria set out below and one of the specific selection criteria. Applications must be received in writing and set out how the applicant meets each of the selection criteria. Applications also need to clearly indicate which of the positions is being applied for. The Covering Sheet for applications is attached and should be completed and returned with applications.

Applicants interested in applying for the positions must submit an application by mail, fax or email to:

Ms Carmel Jones
Senior Project Officer
Consumer and Family Program Development
Mental Health and Drug & Alcohol Office
NSW Health
Locked Mail Bag 961
North Sydney NSW 2059

Ph: (02) 9424 5980 Fax: (02) 9332 9041
Email: carmel.jones@doh.health.nsw.gov.au

All applications must be received by NSW Health by COB on **Friday 19 November 2010. No applications received after this time will be considered.**

Applications will be assessed by a selection panel and interviews with candidates may be held if required.

General Selection Criteria:

- Demonstrated ability to maintain networks with families and carers of people with a mental illness.
- Capacity to effectively analyse government policy frameworks.
- Willingness to consult with networks on issues that are available for public comment.
- Feed back relevant information that is available to the public to families and carers of people with a mental illness.
- Ability to articulate the views of families and carers of people with a mental illness and to represent family and carer experiences beyond one's own personal experiences.
- Demonstrated ability to provide the perspective of families and carers of people with a mental illness at a systemic advocacy level.
- An understanding of the principles of participation in mental health.
- Familiarity with the policy development process and with NSW and national policy issues in mental health.
- Ability to work in partnership with families and carers of people with a mental illness and with the Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Office.
- Well developed communication and interpersonal skills, including the ability to work as part of a broader group and maintain good working relationships with

sub-committee members and other stakeholders in the mental health policy development process.

Specific Criteria (only one of these criteria will be used per position):

- A person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent who has been a family member and/or carer of someone with a mental illness.

OR

- A person from a culturally or linguistically diverse background who has been a family member and/or carer of someone with a mental illness.

OR

- A person working in the NGO sector who has been a family member and/or carer of someone with a mental illness.

OR

- A young person who has been a family member and/or carer of someone with a mental illness.

OR

- An older person who has been a family member and/or carer of someone with a mental illness.

OR

- A person who has been a family member and/or carer of an older person with a mental illness.

OR

- A person who has been a family member and/or carer of a person with a comorbidity of mental illness and intellectual disability.

OR

- A person who has been a family member and/or carer of someone with a mental illness who has been in a forensic mental health service.

OR

- A person who has been a family member and/or carer of someone with a mental illness who currently resides in a rural or remote Area Health Service.

OR

- A person who has been a family member and/or carer of someone with a mental illness who currently resides in a metropolitan Area Health Service.

OR

- A person who is currently employed as a mental health carer advocate in an Area Health Service.

OR

- A non-government organisation that provides support services for families and carers of people with a mental illness under the Family and Carer Mental Health Program.