



Expression of Interest to Inform Alcohol and Other Drug Services in the Kimberley

Consumer, Carer and Family Working Group EXPRESSION OF INTEREST Frequently Asked Questions

Background

The Mental Health Commission (MHC) is seeking to establish two time-limited Consumer, Carer and Family Working Groups (Working Groups) to help inform the development of alcohol and other drug (AOD) services in the Kimberley region.

The aim is to plan for comprehensive and integrated AOD services in the Kimberley, with consideration to services for co-occurring mental health issues. Consideration will be given to ensuring an appropriate mix of AOD services aligned to the Western Australian Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services Plan 2015-2025 (the Plan) in the service streams of prevention, community support, community treatment, community bed-based services (including withdrawal and residential rehabilitation services), and hospital-based services.

As part of the 2017 election commitments, the State Government committed to a statewide, integrated Methamphetamine Action Plan to reduce the demand, supply and harm from methamphetamine use. This includes the allocation of \$45 million of new and existing funding over four years to deliver the key initiatives outlined in the election commitments.

As part of this, funding of \$200,000 has been allocated from the Royalties for Regions Program for the MHC to identify and undertake planning regarding gaps in AOD treatment services (and co-occurring mental health) in the Kimberley. The MHC has engaged a consultant, Nous Group, to assist with undertaking the consultation with a range of people which includes:

- Targeted consultation with current AOD service providers, consumers, carers and family members and key groups in the Kimberley region;
- Targeted consultation with key stakeholders in the Perth metropolitan area; and
- Coordinating online submissions via the MHC website including an online survey.

A discussion paper has been prepared by the MHC to guide the consultation process, which outlines the optimal mix of AOD (and co-occurring mental health) services in the Kimberley region.

The findings of the consultation will inform the development of a business case for the consideration of the State Government in the 2019-20 Budget process.



What is involved in the Working Groups?

The MHC, via the contracted consultant Nous Group, is seeking the views of consumers, carers and families as part of the consultation process. The Nous Group team will be led by Ms Emma White, Ms Janine Dureau and Mr Nick Psanoudakis.

The two Working Groups will be established, based around consumers, carers and family members from the East Kimberley and West Kimberley.

The initial Working Group Meetings will be held in Broome (3 September 2018) and in Kununurra (4 September 2018), to gain the views of the Working Groups, as guided by the discussion paper.

You would only attend one meeting (either Broome or Kununurra), depending on whether you are part of the East Kimberley or West Kimberley Working Group. The meetings will be run by Nous Group and will last for about three hours.

Please note, the meetings will be held at facilities with videoconferencing if this option is more suitable for you, rather than attending in person.

In addition, the MHC would like the opportunity to engage with the Working Groups on an ongoing basis while developing a business case to Government. Initially, the term of the Working Groups will be for a period of approximately six months.

In this time, the MHC or Nous Group would like to contact the Working Groups to make sure that the information provided through the meetings has been captured appropriately, as well as to get the Working Group's feedback on the information that has been provided from a range of other stakeholders throughout the consultation process. This will be primarily done through emails.

What about previous consultations?

The MHC is aware of the many previous consultations undertaken in the Kimberley region, by different Government agencies on a range of topics. In preparing the discussion paper, the MHC has summarised the outcomes of some of the previous consultations to check back with stakeholders, if anything has changed.

Roles and Responsibilities

The MHC is responsible for the overall project and for developing the business case for consideration by Government.

Nous Group will be responsible for running the meetings and summarising all of the feedback received from a range of stakeholders. Nous Group will also contact you directly regarding the arrangements for the meetings.



What support is there for me to attend?

In line with the MHC's [Consumer, Family, Carer and Community Paid Partnership Policy](#), on this occasion, the MHC is pleased to offer Working Group members a total maximum participation payment of up to \$245 (\$35 per hour for up to seven hours at the active participant level). The participation payment includes acknowledgement of time associated with:

- Reading the discussion paper before the Forum;
- Attending the forum; and
- Reading and providing feedback on the summary of consultation findings.

The participation payment will be paid in two parts. The first amount (of up to \$175) will be paid following attendance at the forum and the second amount (of up to \$70) will be paid after receiving feedback on the summary of consultation findings.

You can choose if you would like the Participation Payment paid to you, or you might prefer to receive a retail voucher. If you would like the payment to be made to you, then you will need to provide your bank details on the day of the meeting to the representatives of Nous Group, who will forward to the MHC for payment.

The MHC understands that it can be hard to physically attend one of the meetings, given Broome or Kununurra might be far from where you live, or that you might need to take time off work to attend. If you need some assistance to travel to attend the forum, then you can call the MHC to discuss this further.

What is the application process?

In order to be considered for the Working Group, you will need to complete the Application Form and return to the MHC by **5pm on Friday, 10 August 2018**. Please call the number below if you are unable to submit your application by email.

The MHC will look at all of the applications and advise you if you are successful by approximately 17 August 2018.

By submitting an application, please note that you agree for the MHC to release the details that you provide to Nous Group so that they can contact you regarding further details of the meetings.

How else can I be involved?

If you would like to provide feedback on the consultation discussion paper and as part of this project, but are unable to be part of the Working Groups, please visit the Mental Health Commission website (www.mhc.wa.gov.au) for more information about making a submission.

For more information please contact Ms Carla Patterson or Ms Lindsay Leek on (08) 6553 0600.