

TERMS OF REFERENCE

National Multicultural Mental Health Project: CALD Mental Health Consumer and Carer Group

Effective: September 2021
Term: December 2021 to Mid 2025 (end of project activities)

Background

The purpose of the National Multicultural Mental Health Project is to facilitate a national focus on mental health and suicide prevention for people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds. The project aims to improve the accessibility and quality of mental health services for people from CALD backgrounds by supporting mental health service providers to improve cultural responsiveness and accessibility of mental health services.

The National Multicultural Mental Health Project is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health.

Purpose

The purpose of the CALD Mental Health Consumer and Carer Group is to be a key source of advice:

- in relation to multicultural mental health expertise, particularly the views and interests of CALD mental health consumers and carers
- to assist in project implementation and in ensuring meaningful project outcomes
- to support dissemination of national approaches
- to provide links to local multicultural communities

A consumer and a carer representative of this group will also participate as members of the National Multicultural Mental Health Project Alliance, along with representatives from the mental health and multicultural sectors. The Alliance provides high level oversight and decision-making functions for the project, and the nominated consumer and carer representatives will help to ensure that the project as a whole reflects the views and interests of consumers and carers from CALD communities.

The CALD Mental Health Consumer and Carer Group will also link up with existing mental health consumer and carer structures, such as the National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Forum (NMHCCF).

The CALD Mental Health Consumer and Carer Group will provide advice to the National Multicultural Mental Health Project. Advice from the CALD Mental Health Consumer and Carer Group will be reported to and considered by the project Alliance (whose membership includes representatives from the consumer and carer group), and the Mental Health Australia Board, who hold ultimate responsibility for the project.



The CALD Mental Health Consumer and Carer Group may seek relevant information to fulfil its responsibilities.

Membership

The CALD Mental Health Consumer and Carer Group will have up to 16 members – one CALD mental health consumer representative and one CALD mental health carer representative from each state and territory.

Mental Health Australia will work with the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) to determine the membership of the CALD Mental Health Consumer and Carer Group.

Where possible, the membership of the CALD Mental Health Consumer and Carer Group will be reflective of the diverse needs and interests of Australia's CALD communities, including established migrant communities as well as emerging communities and refugees. Consideration will also be given to rural and remote location, LGBTI communities, aged and youth cohorts, as well as any other relevant factors in order to ensure that the group is representative.

Representatives will have links to their communities, giving them the skills, opportunity and responsibility to clearly reflect those issues of most systemic and strategic interest to CALD mental health consumers and carers.

Relevant Mental Health Australia and FECCA staff will attend CALD Mental Health Consumer and Carer Group meetings to provide secretariat support and share information about the National Multicultural Mental Health Project. CALD Mental Health Consumer and Carer Group meetings will be chaired by co-chairs nominated from within, and agreed by, the group.

Term

The CALD Mental Health Consumer and Carer Group will continue for the funded period of the National Multicultural Mental Health Project, with project activities ending on mid 2025. Mental Health Australia will initially appoint members to the CALD Mental Health Consumer and Carer Group for one year. Membership will be renewed annually.

If a member leaves before the end of the project, Mental Health Australia will appoint a new member from the relevant state or territory, following a transparent merit-based selection process.

Should the National Multicultural Mental Health Project be extended, CALD Mental Health Consumer and Carer Group members will not automatically be reappointed. Depending on the extension (if any), a transparent merit-based selection process may occur.

Meetings

There will be two to three meetings held per year face-to-face or virtually as required. The CALD Mental Health Consumer and Carer Group may also discuss particular issues out of session by email. This is subject to change.

Members will be offered sitting fees for their participation in CALD Mental Health Consumer and Carer Group face-to-face and teleconference meetings,¹ and (where applicable) for their participation in meetings of the National Multicultural Mental Health Project Alliance and the NMHCCF.

¹ Individuals will need to obtain independent financial advice about the suitability of claiming sitting fees.



All travel and accommodation expenses associated with attending CALD Mental Health Consumer and Carer Group face-to-face meetings, including taxis and parking, will be arranged and paid for by Mental Health Australia.

Code of Conduct and Operating Guidelines

Members of the CALD Mental Health Consumer and Carer Group agree to abide by the requirements of Mental Health Australia's Code of Conduct (Attachment A). Operating Guidelines will also be developed to provide guidance on agreed best practice for the group's work and processes.

Secretariat support

Mental Health Australia will provide secretariat support to the CALD Mental Health Consumer and Carer Group. This includes liaising with members, preparing meeting materials, managing the organisation of meetings, and coordinating travel and venue requirements.

Communications, Media and Reporting

All communications and media associated with the National Multicultural Mental Health Project will be through Mental Health Australia.

Amendment

The terms of reference may be amended by Mental Health Australia with the agreement of the CALD Mental Health Consumer and Carer Group.

