# Carer Representative National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Forum (NMHCCF)

The Department of Health - Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drugs Branch is seeking expressions of interest from a suitably qualified person with a lived experience of caring for someone experiencing mental illness to represent the Northern Territory on the National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Forum (NMHCCF).

The NMHCCF was established by the Australian Health Ministers’ Advisory Council (AHMAC) in 2002 in recognition of the continued need for mental health consumer and carer involvement at the highest level of policy development. It provides a mechanism for mental health consumers and carers to come together to foster partnerships and to ensure the input of consumers and carers into the activities of the mental health sector including the reform of mental health policy and service delivery in Australia. The NMHCCF reports directly to the AHMAC Mental Health Principal Committee. More information about the NMHCCF is available at [www.nmhccf.org.au](http://www.nmhccf.org.au)

**It is expected that the successful applicant will**:

* Represent Northern Territory mental health carers expressing their needs and views at the NMHCCF
* Articulate carer perspectives using system advocacy skills in a national policy development context.
* Maintain connection with and be actively involved in the key networks of mental health carers and service providers within the Northern Territory.
* Provide a conduit for information between the NMHCCF and the Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drugs Branch as well as local carer networks including but not limited to using NMHCCF identified reporting processes.
* Maintain regular liaison with the Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drugs Branch
* Fulfil duties of NMHCCF members as outlined in the Terms of Reference for the NMHCCF and the NMHCCF Operating Guidelines.

**What level of commitment is required?**

The successful representative will be appointed for a maximum of four years and during this time the expected commitment from the NMHCCF will be:

* To attend at least two face to face meetings per year. These meetings are usually held interstate.
* To participate in at least two teleconferences throughout the year with the NMHCCF.
* At times representatives are invited to participate on sub committees and/or working parties of the NMHCCF. Involvement in these additional committees will require a commitment to attend additional face to face meetings or teleconferences.
* Representatives are expected to consult broadly through existing carer networks in the Northern Territory to ensure a broad range of views and experiences of carers are heard at a national level.
* Representatives will be required to regularly report back to the Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drugs Branch and to mental health carers and consumer networks.

**Selection criteria for consumer representatives on the NMHCCF**

* Demonstrated ability to provide an understanding of carer perspectives at a system advocacy level.

For example, skills could include:

* + An understanding of the principles of carer needs and participation;
	+ Being widely informed of and able to represent carer experiences beyond one’s own personal experience;
	+ Familiarity or the ability to gain familiarity with state or territory and national policy issues in mental health;
	+ Being able to provide advice and strategic direction to the NMHCCF on behalf of the Northern Territory carers.
	+ Being able to problem solve, use initiative and contribute to the goals of the NMHCCF.
* Demonstrated ability to maintain networks with state or territory-based carer organisations or government bodies and their constituents;
* Well-developed interpersonal skills including the ability to work as part of a team and also maintain good working relationships with NMHCCF members and other stakeholders in the mental health policy development process e.g. government and non-government service providers.
* Well-developed communication skills including listening, providing feedback, negotiation and the demonstrated ability to use these to achieve results.
* Willingness to participate in training relevant to the work of the NMHCCF (this training would not be onerous and would be provided through the NMHCCF)
* An understanding of the diversity of the cultural and linguistic backgrounds of the Northern Territory community, and the impact this has on consumers and their families’.

Desirable:

* A letter of support from a relevant carer organisation outlining what makes you suitable for this position.

Please forward your expression of interest including current Curriculum Vitae addressing the above selection criteria by Friday 3 April 2020:

Cathy Chapple, Senior Policy Officer

Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drugs Branch

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If you have any questions in relation to the advertised position please contact

Cathy Chapple, Senior Policy Officer – Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drugs Branch on 08 992943 or email cathy.chapple@nt.gov.au