

**outside in**

**Conference Summary**  
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## Outside In PLENERY SESSION

TO OVERVIEW AND MAKE  
RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE  
SESSIONS THROUGHOUT THE  
CONFERENCE to Government and to inform  
our approach

## Our Key Note Speakers

- What did they have to say?
- Commonalties of the issues for both mental health and drug and alcohol service delivery.
- John Mendoza
- Tania Major
- Margaret Hamilton
- David McGrath
- Jeff Cheverton
- Janet Meagher

## The first set of Symposiums Session

- We covered some real controversial and provocative issues.
- Such as homelessness, criminal justice, smoking and sexual orientation.
- SOME RECOMMENDATION FROM THESE ISSUES-
- Smoking cessation programs must be funded .
- Agencies need to explore ways to meet the needs of Gay, Lesbian Bisexual and Transgender community.
- The voice of community organization needs to be heard in the development of the NSW Homelessness Framework
- Proactive engagement in the criminal justice system and providing post release programs.

## Research, Evaluation and Evidence

- RECOMMENDATIONS
- Maintain funding for NGO led research
- Approve the establishment of Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Research Networks

## Creativity in Recovery

- These symposiums highlighted the creativity and innovative approaches used by NGOS in both sectors to assist individuals in recovery through alternative processes.
- The efficacy of these approaches are undervalued.
- RECOMMENDATION
- These approaches should be adequately funded and evaluated.

## Understanding Cultural Diversity

- The importance to see the similarities between cultures not always focus on the difference.
- Social and Emotional Well Being are central to addressing Aboriginal Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Issues.

## Data Development and Use

- Both sectors are developing compatible systems for information sharing and building evidence bases.
- Recommendation
- Enhanced and continued government funding for sector data system development and implementation immediately

## Workforce Development

- It is evident that both sectors have increased their focus on workforce development and training.
- RECOMMENDATIONS
- Higher level vocational graduate certificates and diplomas in mental health require development and financial support. Ongoing peak funding is necessary to progress development of both sectors workforces.
- Consumer or peer workers need to be supported with resources and a change in work force composition. "Lived experience must inform all aspects of services and service delivery"

## Leadership

- The need for development of leaders in community organizations.
- Training needs to be specifically designed to build leaders in our sectors.
- RECOMMENDATION
- NGO GRANTS must be enhanced to attract and retain a qualified workforce.

## Consumer Participation

- Both sectors recognize that discrimination/ stigma is a major barrier to meaningful consumer participation.
- The symposium highlighted that community organizations are well placed to enable consumer participation but the rhetoric of consumer participation still exists.
- RECOMMENDATION
- Community organisations need to recognize the value of consumer participation and identify appropriate consumer roles and employ consumers in them.

## Family and Carers

- Maximize opportunities for engagement of families and carers in the recovery journey.
- RECOMMENDATION
- Continued funding to build sustainable family involvement that is imbedded in service practice.
- Recognition that the needs of both the carer and the care recipient must be considered when developing models of respite care and support.