



Welcome to Issue 4 of the Australian Mental Health Outcomes and Classification Network Newsletter. Keeping you up to date on Outcome activity in Australian Mental Health

Australian Mental Health Outcomes Expert Groups

Outcomes Expert Groups have been created to provide clinical and technical advice to the Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council (AHMAC) National Mental Health Working Group, through the Information Strategy Committee.

Three groups have been formed to support the introduction and implementation of routine Outcomes and Casemix Measurement in mental health services.

These age groups cover Child and Adolescent, Adult and Older Persons Mental Health Services.

Role of the Groups

Each Outcomes Expert Group will provide advice on a variety of issues including:

1. The measures introduced to mental Health services with the National Outcomes and Casemix Collection (NOCC).

2. Future modifications to the Outcomes and Casemix measures used.
3. The appropriate use of routine outcome measurement to improve clinical practice and service quality.
4. The training and support implications of routine outcome measurement.
5. Analysis and reporting requirements and the application of outcomes and casemix concepts.
6. Consumer and carer issues and the implications for the Australian Mental Health Outcomes and Classification Network (AMHOCN).
7. Any issues that may be referred by the AHMAC National Mental Health Working Group and the ISC for expert opinion.

Membership

In general the Outcomes groups comprise a Chairperson, representatives from each State and Territory (who will provide strong links and communication with their relevant jurisdiction policy unit), a representative of the Australian Government, a representative from New

Zealand Mental Health (where the introduction of routine Outcome measurement is also taking place), representatives from AMHOCN, a representative from the ISC, a representative of the Strategic Planning Group for Private Psychiatric Services (SPGPPS), Consumer and Carer Representatives and invited experts. The Adult Outcomes Expert Group also has a representative from the Australian Medical Association.

Meetings

The Outcomes Expert Groups have been funded to run until June 2006. Each group will meet up to three times a year, with provision for additional meetings as required. The first meetings of all expert groups took place in June 2004

Secretariat

Secretariat support for the Outcomes Expert Groups will be undertaken by the Secretariat of AMHOCN.

More information regarding the Outcomes Expert groups including membership can be found on the NOCC website (www.mhnocc.org)

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