



# Mental Health Carers NSW

## Expression of Interest for Consultation: Mental Health Training Project

People seeking help from the legal assistance sector often experience mental distress, but they have not had a say in shaping the services they use. Across Australia, the legal assistance sector is not well supported to work with people experiencing mental health issues or carers, even though this is a common part of their work.

Mental Health Carers NSW will host a **paid consultation by Legal Aid on mental health training**. The consultation will be held **online via Zoom** in collaboration with Erika Ballance, Family and Carer Consultant, Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network.

The consultation will be held in the: **Carers of Forensic and Corrections Patients Network meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2pm – 4:30pm.**

**The consultation will be held in the first half of the meeting from approximately 2pm to 3:30pm.** Carers are then welcome to stay online for the rest of the meeting, including a session on mutual sharing and support amongst carers after the consultation, from 3:30pm to 4:30pm.

### ***About the Consultation***

Legal Aid is implementing a project that will design national training for lawyers, in partnership with people receiving and delivering legal assistance services; on how to take instructions from someone experiencing mental illness. The voices of people with lived experience, their carers and legal staff will be central in the design, delivery and evaluation of the Project.

This Project will design national mental health training in partnership with people receiving and delivering legal assistance services. A co-design approach will lead to services that are better for clients and staff in the legal assistance sector.

Once developed, training will be available to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services, Family Violence Prevention Legal Services, Community Legal Centres and Legal Aid Commissions.

**We would like to hear your views on how lawyers can serve people with lived experience and carers better. Carers will be paid \$110 for their participation in this consultation.**

We would like to hear from carers with diverse experiences, including carers from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and carers with an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background.

**MHCN Mental Health Carers NSW Inc.**

*Funded by the NSW Ministry of Health*

Building C, Suite 2.02, 33 Saunders St, Pyrmont NSW 2009

Carer Connection Helpline: 1300 554 660 – Free Call

**P:** (02) 9332 0777

**W:** [www.mentalhealthcarersnsw.org](http://www.mentalhealthcarersnsw.org)

**E:** [MHCNadmin@mentalhealthcarersnsw.org](mailto:MHCNadmin@mentalhealthcarersnsw.org)



# Mental Health Carers NSW

If you would like to submit an expression of interest to participate in this consultation, please fill out the following questions, and email your responses to Prasheela Karan, Policy Officer MHCN [Prasheela.Karan@mentalhealthcarersnsw.org](mailto:Prasheela.Karan@mentalhealthcarersnsw.org), by Monday, April 3rd COB:

Q1. Are you currently a carer of a forensic or corrections patient in NSW?

Q2. Has your loved one ever needed help from a lawyer relating to a legal issue?

Q3. Why do you want to participate in this consultation?

Q4. Are you available at this time: **Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2pm – 3:30pm.**

Q5. Can you commit to reading a short (maximum one page) explanation of the project prior to the consultation?

Q6. Are you able to attend the consultation via Zoom? Would you like us to send instructions for using Zoom?

Q7. Would you be available to have a short 10-minute chat over the phone about your expression of interest before the event? A staff member from MHCN may call you. (What is the best number in office hours?)

Q8. Would you consent to the session being recorded to help us capture/analyse your responses afterwards? The session will only be recorded for accurate note-taking purposes. The recording will be shared with Jennifer Chen, Program Manager Legal Aid for her researchers' note taking purposes. We will obtain your consent to share the file with Jennifer Chen. The file will not be shared outside of this project to other persons. We will support you to participate anonymously in the Zoom consultation (through turning off your camera and using an alias/pseudonym). We will provide instructions on how to do this.

***Please provide the following details:***

*Last name:*

*First name:*

*Email address:*

*Phone number*

Thank you for your interest in this consultation.

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