

Tuesday, 11 October 2016

Events inspire new thinking in mental health

Queensland Mental Health Week | 9 - 15 October 2016

Participants at this year's North Brisbane Partners in Recovery (PiR) Forum will get the tools they need to continue co-creating solutions to the systemic issues facing people with mental illness.

Now in its fourth year, North Brisbane PiR is hosting two free events in North Lakes and Herston designed to inspire change and showcase innovative practice in mental health reform.

But the right tools are needed for every job, so to coincide with the Forum, Brisbane North PHN will launch 'Steady, Invested, Strong – A Consortium and Commissioning Toolkit'.

Brisbane North PHN's Executive Manager for Commissioned Services, Pauline Coffey, said the PHN had gained significant experience in commissioning as the lead agency for North Brisbane PiR and another two consortia.

"We're very pleased to be in a position to share our knowledge with other organisations and like-minded individuals, who see collaboration as way to achieve better healthcare outcomes," Ms Coffey said.

"Our Toolkit tells the story of the work we've undertaken with our partners, as part of three separate consortia, across the community aged care and mental health sectors," she said.

In collaboration with the Metro North Hospital and Health Service and a range of non-government organisations, the PHN has established three Consortia:

- **North Brisbane Partners in Recovery** – coordinates services to help people with a long-term, severe and persistent mental illness to access the support they need.
- **healthy@home** – provides community-based care services to people aged 65 years and over (or 50 years and over for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people) to enhance their independence and avoid or delay entry into residential aged care.
- **Regional Assessment Service** – provides personalised assessments in the Brisbane South, Brisbane North and Caboolture regions to assess eligibility for aged care services.

"Free to download and use, the new Toolkit is intended to be a practice-based resource rather than a theoretical discussion of collaboration and integration," Ms Coffey said.

Each Forum attendee will receive a summary version of the Toolkit to take home, while the full document can be downloaded [from the PHN website](#).

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The theme of the North Brisbane Partners in Recovery Forum 2016 is 'Working together to support recovery: Inspiring change'.

For more information about the Forum, go to: <http://www.northbrisbane.pirinitiative.com.au/news/events/>.

ENDS

Editor's note:

Print quality images of Pauline Coffey are available via Dropbox, here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/49wk6dj8sfeepys/AACHNaHeDQcf0tvqVcOJzAr9a?dl=0>

About the Brisbane North PHN

Brisbane North PHN supports clinicians and communities in Brisbane's northern suburbs, Moreton Bay Regional Council and parts of Somerset Regional Council. It covers approximately 4,100 km² of urban, regional and rural areas, with a population of over 900,000.

The Federal Government announced the establishment of 31 Primary Health Networks to replace the national network of Medicare Locals in 2015. The Government selected successful PHNs through an open and competitive process, including the Brisbane North PHN.

The key objectives of the PHN are:

- increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of medical services for patients, particularly those at risk of poor health outcomes; and
- improving coordination of care to ensure patients receive the right care in the right place at the right time.

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