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An Australian Government Initiative

Recovery on track, evaluation report finds

World Mental Health Day 2015

More than 90 per cent of surveyed respondents participating in a program for people with severe, long-term mental illness have reported a reduction in 'unmet needs' since commencing with the program, a carer and consumer-led evaluation has found.

A snapshot of the evaluation, which looks at the first 18 months of the Federally-funded North Brisbane Partners in Recovery (PiR) program, was released to coincide with Queensland Mental Health Week 2015.

Brisbane North PHN leads a 13-member consortium, which collectively oversees implementation of the PiR initiative in North Brisbane, the Moreton Bay region and Kilcoy.

Brisbane North PHN's chief executive Abbe Anderson said the full evaluation report would be available later in the year and would help PiR agencies to understand the effect the program is having on people's lives.

"PiR agencies employ a team of Support Facilitators who work with program participants and their families to coordinate the range of care services needed," Ms Anderson said.

"We produced this snapshot because we wanted everyone attending this year's North Brisbane PiR forums, in Redcliffe on October 6 and New Farm on October 14, to see what has been achieved.

"I am very pleased to say the evaluation shows that the overwhelming majority of people involved in PiR are receiving appropriate assistance from our Support Facilitators and that this is aiding their recovery," she said.

Ms Anderson said people with both a lived and currently-living experience of mental illness were recruited as evaluators and this experience was found to be a major asset during the surveys.

"Our evaluators contacted more than 600 PiR participants and told us their experience with mental illness gave them additional credibility with those they surveyed," Ms Anderson said.

Among the evaluation report's findings:

- Over 90 per cent of participants had a reduction in unmet needs from their first assessment to their most recent assessment.
- Nearly 90 per cent of participants who reported their connection to 'other services' as an unmet need at intake, no longer reported this need as unmet at their most recent review.
- More than 90 per cent of participants reported that their Support Facilitators had treated them with respect and had respected their privacy.

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- 80 per cent of participants said they were supported very well or well by their Support Facilitator.

The evaluation found North Brisbane PiR had received 1,346 referrals over 18 months and that 957 people had been assessed as eligible to receive support.

To download the snapshot: 'Knowing someone cares - Evaluation of the first 18 months of North Brisbane Partners in Recovery', go to: <http://www.northbrisbane.pirinitiative.com.au/resource/publications/>.

ENDS

About North Brisbane Partners in Recovery

North Brisbane PiR is a specialised initiative that seeks to improve outcomes for people who experience severe and persistent mental illness, and also have complex needs.

PiR recognises that many people with severe, long-term mental illness have more complex needs than current systems can meet. Some people require a comprehensive and coordinated response from a range of sectors – including health, housing, income support, disability, education and employment.

PiR aims to better support program participants, their carers and families, by getting services and supports from the multiple sectors they may come into contact with (and could benefit from) to work in a more collaborative, coordinated and integrated way.

About the Brisbane North PHN

Established on 1 July 2015, the 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 Brisbane North 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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