



Mental Health Carers Australia welcomes funding of \$3.7M to provide national representation for families, carers and kin in mental health.

Mental Health Carers Australia is the only national advocacy group solely concerned with the well-being and promotion of the needs of mental health family, carer and kin.

Our mission is to be the national voice for mental health carers to enable the best possible life. Our members are central to our advocacy structure of taking the grassroots experience of families and carers and translating that to a strong and effective national voice.

Having grown from our nationwide 1970's family grassroots ARAFMI movement, with this new funding we aim to further strengthen our ability to ensure that people from diverse backgrounds, children and young people, and those living in regional, remote and rural Australia feel heard and represented.

'We thank the many family members and carers who over its history have formed and shaped MHCA into the national organisation it is today. We aim to honour their commitment and tireless unpaid contributions by establishing a robust peak body focussed on system reform to better recognise and support family, carers and kin in the important role they undertake' said Jeremy Coggin, President, Mental Health Carers Australia.

We are equally delighted that the National Mental Health Consumer Alliance was also awarded grant funding to represent the consumer voice in mental health. "We are looking forward to continuing our relationship with the Alliance to advocate on issues of common concern" said Kerry Hawkins Vice-President, Mental Health Carers Australia.

We will also be working in close collaboration with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Lived Experience Centre to ensure that the new peak body hears and amplifies First Nations voices and perspectives in mental health.

MHCA has commenced discussions with a diverse range of organisations focussed on mental health caring to ensure that the diversity of Australia's people and their experiences of the mental health system is well-represented.

We thank The Hon Mark Butler MP, Minister for Health, and The Hon Emma McBride MP, Assistant Minister for Mental Health for their ongoing support of the lived experience movement. We look forward to working with them to ensure that the lived experience movement is embedded in government system reform processes.



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