# Psychosocial Supports Design Project

# Overview and Progress

The NDIA and Mental Health Australia worked on a joint project to identify best practice packages of support for NDIS participants with psychosocial disability, known as the *Psychosocial Supports Design Projec*t (the Project).

The broad aims of the Project were:

* To describe in detail the range of disability supports for people who have a primary condition of psychosocial disability.
* To make evidence based recommendations where new support items may be needed to adequately assist people with psychosocial disability.

Since the Psychosocial Supports Design Project report, the NDIA has made significant progress to address the project recommendations.

**Progress to date**

The NDIA has developed reference materials including:

* *Completing the access process for the NDIS: Tips for communicating about psychosocial disability* for individuals with psychosocial disability. This reference guide will also help family members, clinicians and service providers to support participants with the NDIS access process.
* *Recovery Factsheet*. This factsheet helps explain Recovery in the context of the NDIS.

At August 2016, the Mental Health team has presented at 34 strategic engagement events this year. Twelve other events focused on providing information and engaging with the mental health sector are planned for the rest of the year.

The NDIA, DSS and DoH continue to work together on the transition of Commonwealth mental health programs including Partners in Recovery (PiR) and Personal Helpers and Mentors (PHaMs).

A range of NDIA, DSS and DoH joint engagement activities to help service providers to support participants to transition have happened and further events will occur in August, September and October 2016.

The NDIA Mental Health team has engaged Mental Health Co-ordinating Council (MHCC) to develop an interactive website specifically focused on self-direction, information and supports for people with psychosocial disability. This due for launch in December 2016.

The NDIA Learning & Development team has E-learning modules on psychosocial recovery, has provided mental health first aid for NDIA staff, and is sourcing mental health awareness training for NDIA staff and partners.

The NDIA National Mental Health Sector Reference Group (NMHSRG) has published their July communique along with an Easy Read version.

The NDIA Markets and Providers division have engaged with Mental Health Australia (MHA) and mental health sector providers to provide information about the Pricing Review (personal care & community participation) & benchmarking project.

An NDIA Price Review is underway with a focus on high cost items (such as Supported Accommodation).

The NDIA Markets and Providers division launched the Specialist Disability Accommodation Decision Paper.

The NDIA Market and Providers division has held Provider Engagement workshops in all States and Territories to help providers work effectively with NDIA.

The NDIA Market and Providers division has completed the state baseline Market Positions Statements to help providers anticipate growth and local opportunities as a result of the NDIS.

**Next Steps:**

* Develop communication materials to help the mental health sector understand the responsibilities of the NDIA and other service systems.
* Develop communication materials to help the mental health sector better understand LAC and ILC.
* Develop NDIA policies and projects to consider the issues of those who are ‘hard to reach/hard to engage’ and ‘complex cohorts’.

* Design of the National Benchmarking project and pilot data collection will be completed by Dec 2016. Mental health service providers are being encouraged to participate. For further information email: Mental.Health.Team@ndis.gov.au
* The NDIA Market and Providers division will focus on analysing specific market modules, such as service type or topic, to encourage best practice.
* The NDIA Market and Providers division continues to act as a market steward to support the delivery of services where there is evidence of thin markets or poor market outcomes.
* Review of NDIA terminology will be undertaken to help the NDIA and the mental health sector achieve shared understanding of terms frequently used and potentially misunderstood.

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