

Number and Name of Original Issue	Issue (4): Accommodation
Description of Issue	Lack of choice, safety and support regarding accommodation for people with a mental illness
Suggested change to description of Issue	Lack of choice, safety and support regarding accommodation for people living with mental health issues.
Prepared by	Paula Hanlon & Michael Appleton and agreed to by the working group on 26 August 2011

Original Recommendations from group 4 at the TheMHS Consumer Day 2010

13 of the 253 consumers attending the day participated in this group.

Rec No 1: Shorter waiting lists - Government to supply funds for purpose built housing.

Rec No 2: Housing plans that create community with mental health supports like HASI in NSW.

Rec No 3: Cheaper private Housing - real estate support with awareness of needs of mental health consumers for independent living.

Carolyn Watt was the Recovery Bus Coordinator for the group. Carolyn's email is cwatt@nsccahs.health.nsw.gov.au

Feedback since the Consumer Day:

Since the 2010 Sydney TheMHS Consumer Day 60 people have responded through survey monkey 35 people agreed and 2 people disagreed with the recommendations put forward by the working group. 13 people made comments on the recommendations

Comments: We have reviewed the 13 comments supplied through Survey Monkey and suggest that this issue is relevant because consumers are still having issues with obtaining secure and affordable accommodation.

Rewording suggestion for recommendations: All solutions from 2000 report still relevant as written

2010 Recommendation 1: shortening waiting list – perhaps beyond the scope of this project. Working party recognizes the difficulties people experience in waiting for public housing is more about the lack of stock and lack of Government allocation of budget for new housing. Possible strategy could be for lobby actions (letters, forums etc) to provide information to Government members on the need to increase funding to Public Housing with whole of Government partnerships to ensure effective community supports and greater flexibility in leasing options (for example providing joint tenancy options, flexibility of transferring between accommodation options according to recovery needs eg if someone living alone in public housing requires group living with additional supports or vice versa and being able to transfer with greater ease to be closer to support network (family, friends or therapeutic). purpose built housing issue covered in solution 2 (2000 report);

Suggested rewording: Individual housing/accommodation plans to reflect the individuals changing need, with flexibility for transfers between varying levels of accommodation support structures (e.g. single living, shared accommodation, group home and 24hr support) , joint tenancies in public housing and housing within close proximity to support networks (family,

friends or therapeutic services).

2010 Recommendation 2 is covered in recommendation 3 (2000 report). Word intensive overlooks the lower support needs that maintain peoples' recovery and quality of life in the community.

Suggested rewording: "Provide supported accommodation that meets individual needs in the community" Working party to include a descriptive examples box with community support strategies from across Australia and New Zealand (e.g. Housing Accommodation Support Initiative (HASI), Personal Helpers and Mentors Services, Joint Guarantee of Service, Catholic Community Care, Meals on Wheels etc)

2010 Recommendation 3 is about the need to make private housing more affordable for people who are on low incomes who are eligible for public housing and educating and supporting real estate agents and landlords how to support people living with mental health issues. Suggestion that this be created as a separate issues:

Suggested rewording: Increased Government support and greater flexibility for people on low incomes and/or eligible for public housing to be able to access private rental.

Suggested rewording: education program (including the lived experience) to be developed for landlords (public, NGO and private) to increase awareness of individuals support needs and community options to maximize and maintain their recovery

Other issues for working party consideration/discussion:

People need to be aware of the Mental Health Council of Australia paper on homelessness at:

www.mhca.org.au

Look at how we develop the descriptive examples box with community support strategies from across Australia and New Zealand. Do we need to include links to programs like NSW HASI

http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/pubs/2007/hasi_intiative.html