

Number and Name of Original Issue	Issue (5): Employment
Original Description of Issue	Lack of Employment opportunities for those experiencing a mental illness
Suggested change to description of Issue	Lack of Employment support & information opportunities for those experiencing a mental illness
Prepared by	Douglas Holmes and finalized by the working group on 13/04/2012

TheMHS Consumer Day 2010 Original Recommendations from group 5

Group 5 made the following recommendations

Rec No 1: Develop training and support programs to assist consumers in obtaining ongoing employment

Rec No 2: Publicise and improve government subsidies to the wider community of employers

Rec No 3: Support consumers in developing worker co-op and social enterprises

Rec No 4: Education of employers, doctors about current opportunities for employment

Rec No 5: Legislate standards for payment of consumers within mental health services, ie classification of positions and amount of payment

Rick Austin was the Recovery Bus Coordinator for the group. Rick's email is

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Feedback since the Consumer Day:

Since the 2010 Sydney TCD 60 people have responded through survey monkey 5 people agreed and 3 people disagreed with the recommendations put forward by the working group. 9 people made comments on the recommendations.

Comments from working group:

The working group has reviewed the 9 comments supplied through Survey Monkey and suggests that this issue is relevant because consumers are still having issues with obtaining employment after admitting they have a mental illness.

Rewording suggestions for Recommendations:

Rec No 1: Develop individually tailored training and support programs to assist consumers in preparing for, gaining and sustaining employment (including establishing a range of employment models: eg Clubhouse, Supported Employment, Cooperatives, Social Enterprises, Open Employment– see glossary for definitions)

Rec No 2: Encourage Government to subsidise and promote employment opportunities for consumers, to the wider community of employers

Rec No 3: Support consumers in developing worker co-operatives and social enterprises

Rec No 4: Education of employers, service providers, Doctors, carers and consumers, about current opportunities for employment, support programs, industrial relations and entitlements

Rec No 5: Review current Legislation and Standards for payments and conditions of work for consumers within mental health services (public, NGO & private), i.e. classification of positions and amount of payment (refer to NSW Consumer Worker Framework) www.nswcag.org.au

Other issues for working party consideration/discussion: these to go into a Glossary at end of report

Links:

Clubhouse: www.iccd.org

Supported Employment: www.centrelink.gov.au

Cooperatives: www.australia.coop

Social Enterprises: www.parracity.nsw.gov.au/work/economic_development/social_enterprise

Open Employment: www.centrelink.gov.au