

Mental Health & Wellbeing  
Consumer Advisory Group



# Being

2017 | 2018  
Annual Report





# Bridging the gap through systemic change.

Welcome. **Being** | Mental Health and Wellbeing Consumer Advisory Group is a non-profit organisation which receives core and project funding from the Mental Health Commission of NSW.

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# Respect and dignity for all.

**Being** is the independent, state-wide peak organisation for people with lived/living experience of mental health issues (consumers). We work with consumers to achieve and support systemic change.

## **Being's vision and purpose**

**Our vision** is for all people with a lived experience of mental health issues to participate as valued citizens in the communities they choose.

**Our purpose** is to ensure that mental health consumer views are heard by policy makers, service providers and the community, through promoting consumer participation in relevant policy making and service development decisions.

The lived experience of people is fundamental to all that *Being* does and our work is underpinned by a commitment to upholding international human rights.

## **Being holds the following values:**

- Respect and dignity for all to enable inclusion.
- Social justice and equity to ensure participation.
- Belief in recovery to make it possible for every individual to recover.
- Integrity to ensure transparency and accountability.
- Fidelity to ensure the legitimate representation of the views of consumers.



## **Our Guiding Principles.**

- Principles of recovery underpin all our work.
- Recognition of the importance of a holistic approach.
- Collaboration and teamwork.
- Flexibility, responsiveness, and innovation.
- Consultative and participatory processes that put consumers at the centre.
- Being accessible and approachable for all.
- Promoting professionalism and quality practice.





# Membership



Our members come from all walks of life. Each with their own unique story to tell, we unite under one core mission.

Members of *Being* play an important role in driving and guiding the direction of the organisation. We are so grateful to collaborate with passionate and inspiring people in a way which informs the future direction of services and systems.

Over this past year *Being's* membership and engagement has grown significantly due to the moving directions of the organisation.

We thank our members for their ongoing contributions and support.

*Being* offers membership to people who self-identify as having a lived/living experience of mental health issues, and associate membership to anyone else who is interested in our work. If you would like to find out more about becoming a member of *Being* log onto our website at:

[www.being.org.au/getinvolved/become-a-member/](http://www.being.org.au/getinvolved/become-a-member/)



# Chair Report

On behalf of the board of *Being*, we once again are pleased to bring you the 2017/2018 Annual Report. This detailed report is a reflection of the commitment, dedication and collaboration of our staff and members alike, to advocate for reform and drive forward best practices needed in the mental health sector.



**Anne Francis**  
Current Chair 17/18

The consumer movement is one which needs a strong voice, and *Being* continues to strive in leading and influencing our vision for people to live as valued citizens, to have choices, and their human rights respected.

We need to move confidently and strategically to raise the voices of lived experience wisdom and expertise if we are to truly transform systems and heal lives.

Our year has been one of significant change both with our strategic forecasting and our internal operations. The Board of *Being* have listened to both members and staff of the organisation, and have been working on a new strategic direction which builds on the foundations of our core work whilst inviting initiatives and change to take us into the future.

Our first task in 2017, was in welcoming our new CEO, **Irene Gallagher**, into the position

in August. Irene has brought a wealth of expertise to the role and is operationalising the Board of *Being's* new strategic direction in strengthening our voice and positioning in the sector. During this time, our CEO has implemented a restructure of the organisation to ensure its viability and continued expansion into the future. The restructure saw a number of new positions introduced to *Being* to ensure that the organisation encompassed a variety of strong skillsets required to run a small operation. This has not been an easy time for the team at *Being* in navigating this new terrain and operationalising the Board of *Being's* strategic directions. The staff at *Being* have implemented a plan to cover a breadth of initiatives and activities, and we would like to thank Irene and her team for the tireless commitment, passion and understanding they have brought to *Being* over this time.

The mental health sector has undergone significant reforms over the past year through additional investment by the government into areas such as minor capital works and the mental health peer workforces. *Being* is appreciative of the investments, particularly in areas which will foster healing and recovery.

Of pivotal importance is the expansion of the peer workforce. *Being's* initiatives have previously supported the public peer workforce through project funding, however this year has seen *Being* initiate the

## 2018 Annual Report

“ We need to move confidently and strategically to raise the voices of lived experience wisdom and expertise if we are to truly transform systems and heal lives. ”

development of the inaugural NSW Peer Workforce Network as a way of bringing the public, private and not-for-profit workforce together to collaborate and drive reform needed for the sustainability of the workforce.

As we close this financial year, we acknowledge some of the anticipated challenges likely to be experienced during the next financial year including:

- The investment in changing our governance structure to take us into the future,
- Repositioning and strengthening *Being* as the independent peak organisation for NSW,
- Ensuring our autonomy as an independent organisation,
- Tackling the big issues encountered by mental health consumers, and raising the lived experience voice,
- Supporting and embracing the mental health peer workforce movement,
- Generating additional funding to increase our financial viability and sustainability into the future.

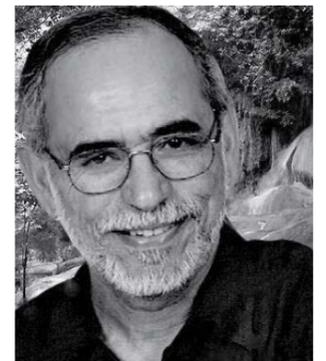
*Being* and The Mental Health Commission of NSW have made great strides in consumer participation and co-design processes, and we welcome the Lived Experience Framework in due course. We would like to thank the Commission for their continued support of *Being*, and in providing the core funding for

our organisation to survive. We particularly would like to thank & acknowledge our fellow Board of Trustee's, including Tim Heffernan, Sunny Hemraj, Robyn Maurice, Bani Aadam.

As volunteers the Board make a substantial commitment to the organisation and are rewarded of the comradery and friendship by working closely together and sharing their passion for the organisation. On behalf of the Board we would like to express our appreciation for the contributions and service of resigning Board members Paula Hanlon, Larry Billington, and Kate Gill.

To our members, on behalf of the Board of Trustees and staff, we take this opportunity to offer our gratitude for your continued support and the faith you have entrusted in the Board and staff to lead and guide our organisation into the future, and to navigate the changing times we have ahead in 2019.

**We look forward to our continued partnerships and collaborations with our members, fellow champions, and colleagues in 2019.**



**Fayez Nour**  
Past Chair 17/18



# CEO'S Report.

**Irene Gallagher**

*Being* Chief  
Executive Officer



It is with great pleasure that I present *Being's* annual report for the 2017-2018 financial year. This year has marked a new chapter for *Being* as a result of the changing climate in the mental health

sector and the need for our organisation to be progressive and responsive to these changes. Our organisation has seen much growth over this time, through additional project funding which has enabled us to build a strong, diverse and passionate team, enhancing

the quality of the work we do including submissions and briefs to the government and the Ministry of Health.

**At the heart of our work, is a strong commitment to our values of human rights, social justice, respect, recovery, integrity and fidelity, and our guiding principles which reinforce these values.** Of key importance to us are the people

we represent, people with lived experience of mental health issues. Over the past year, we have advocated to ensure that services embed practices which support genuine participation, engagement, and co-production processes. We have led and influenced reform, ensuring the lived experience wisdom and expertise is at the forefront of services, legislation, policy, submissions, training, and education. Our lived experience wisdom and expertise are paramount to transforming services, and it is through this transformation that we will see healing take place. Our work over this time has focused on shining a light on the hurt and trauma experienced by people with lived experiences, and the need for services to be truly recovery oriented and trauma-informed, both in theory and in practice.

Since coming into the position as CEO of *Being* in August 2017, and finding my way around the organisation, it became apparent quite quickly that to continue with our progressive and innovative approach, a restructuring of our internal processes was required. Whilst the process of restructure and change can be

## 2018 Annual Report

“ At the heart of our work, is a strong commitment to our values of human rights, social justice, respect, recovery, integrity and fidelity. ”



Being CEO Irene Gallagher and the NSW Minister for Mental Health, Hon. Tanya Davies at the Australian Psychosis Conference

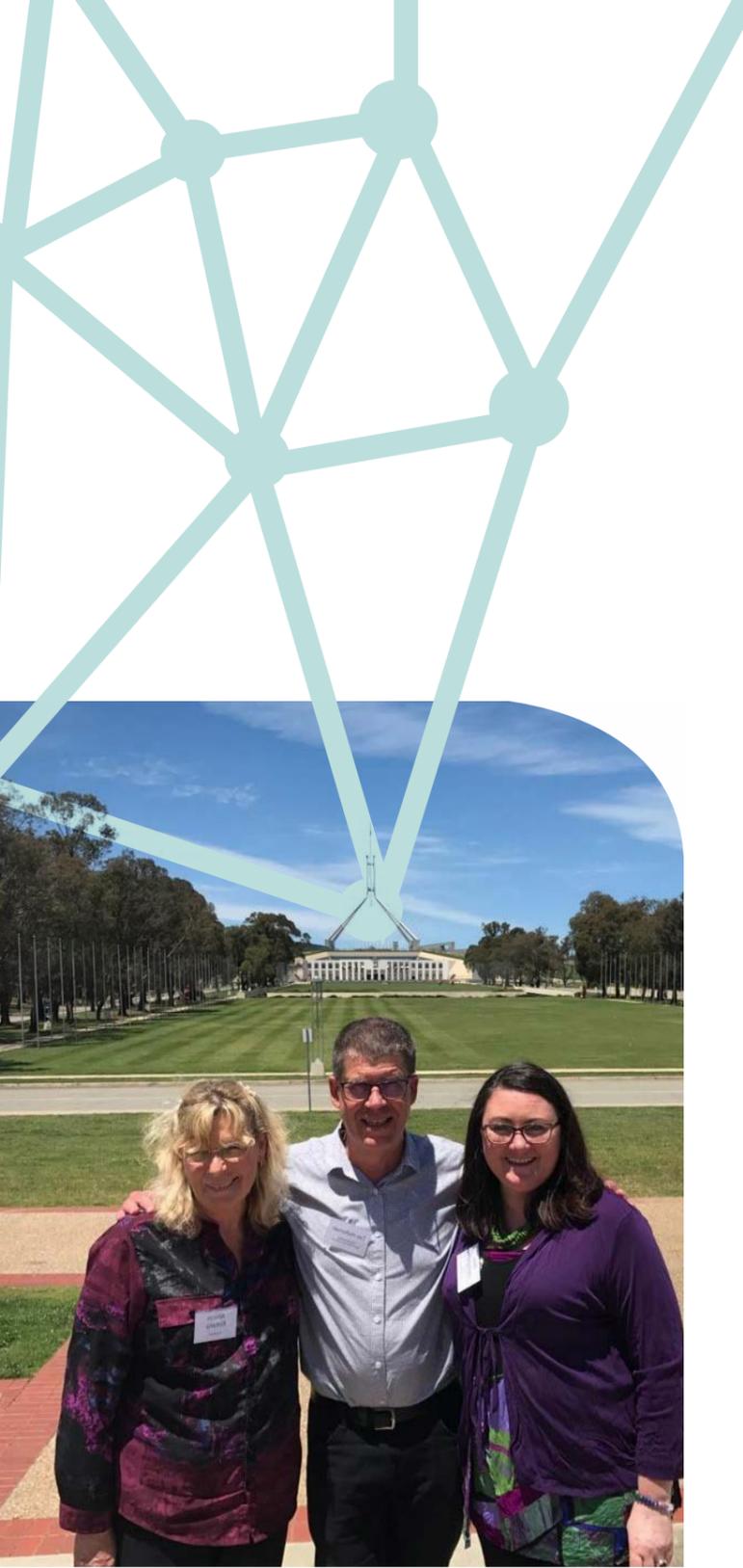
challenging, it was necessary for the future of *Being* in substantiating our position as a State-wide peak organisation who is representative of lived experience voices.

In the latter part of 2017, *Being* held a number of consultations and online surveys to ascertain from our members the future direction of the organisation. It was through the feedback received that we were able to develop a structure and way of working that would not only guide the current work but also create the legacy to take us into the future. The feedback received indicated that whilst our core policy work was critical to the work we do, members who participated in the consultations and survey also shared their desire to see *Being* expand into a number of other areas including education and training, research and academia, and greater mechanisms to support the peer workforce.

In building on the great work of the past, and in honouring the feedback and expectations of our members, *Being* sought to set up processes to inform

the next stage of work by developing the Consumer Advisory Committee at the start of 2018. As a core committee to *Being*, members provide advice and direction and are currently working on a public forum to address the issues of work, study, and careers for people with lived experience.

Another highlight of 2018 was the inauguration of the NSW Peer Workforce Network Committee. The aim of this committee is to inform *Being* of best approaches to setting up a network inclusive of all peer workers across NSW. The committee has been working on identifying gaps in the workforce and providing advice to *Being* on resources and training required to support the workforce. In moving forward, we are hoping to work towards the development of an annual peer workforce forum, bringing together all peer workers from across the sector including public, private and not-for-profit sectors, as a way of sharing, growing and learning together.



Allison Kokany (late), Tim Heffernan and CEO Irene Gallagher.  
 Being extends our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Allison Kokany. Allie was a long serving member with Being and also held the position of board chair of NSW CAG (Being) for a number of years.

Our consultation work has been robust over the 2017/2018 year, and we have engaged with people with lived experience on a number of projects including the development of the Official Visitors report, the first part leading us towards forming a language guide to inform government and services of preferred consumer language. We have also commenced our first round of consultations to inform the work of *Being* in regards to the peer workforce needs, and have continued our work on the topic of Homelessness and the importance of people having a home to call their own.

On reflecting over the past year, I would like to thank everyone who has participated in the work of *Being*, your voice matters, and your experiences and stories of hope and recovery inspire us. You are the reason we do the work we do, and we thank you for sharing this journey with us.

Our thanks go to the Mental Health Commission of NSW for their continued support of *Being*, and their shared vision and commitment to valuing lived experience and ensuring the voices of consumer and carers are embedded in their work. We also thank the Ministry

 2018 Annual Report

“ We are people with hearts and souls, who feel, who hurt, and who want to be treated with dignity.”

of Health – Mental Health Branch for their continued support of *Being* and for their commitment to the NSW Public Mental Health Consumer Workforce. And finally also NSW Fair Trading for partnering with *Being* in the Talkin’ Together project. It has been heartening to explore the partnership of true co-design thought this project. I would also like to thank our Collective Purpose Partners WayAhead and Mental Health Carers NSW for supporting *Being* of this past year.

In presenting our Annual Report, I extend my heartfelt thanks to all of the *Being* Team. Our staff are integral to the work we do and their commitment, enthusiasm, and passion to strive for the best outcomes for people with lived experience is an inspiration. I would also like to thank the Board of *Being* for their leadership and commitment, and faith in both myself and the team, particularly during times of change.

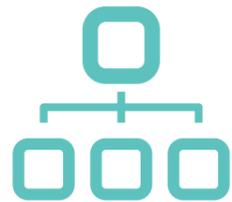
Please take the time to read our annual report, and explore the many achievements *Being* has accomplished over this past year.

[Irene Gallagher](#)  
 Chief Executive Officer



Lydia Armour from NSW Fair Trading, Irene Gallagher and Alisha Bourke from *Being* and Erika Gelzennis a lived experience peer at our first Talkin’ Together planning day.

# The people making things happen.



Irene Gallagher

Chief Executive Officer



Peter Schmiedgen

Policy and Communications Manager



Alisha Bourke

Project Coordinator



“ Teamwork is the thorough conviction that nobody can get there unless everybody gets there. ”

## Staff - Past and Present

Over this past year, we have seen some staffing changes. At the end of 2017, we bid farewell to two of our Policy Officers, Elena Sutcliffe and Kirsten Gibbs, who went on to take the next step in furthering their careers. David Peters joined us for a short time in the newly created position of Operations Manager, leaving us to take on a new chapter of life. In early 2018, Jaime Comber, Policy Officer left us to take on the exciting journey of motherhood, and sadly a few months later we said goodbye to our wonderful Emma Corcoran, who enjoyed the transition to a different career.

We also farewelled our training staff, Sarah-Jane Edwards and Athena Field, who went on to enjoy some much needed time off.

We did, however, have the joy of welcoming a newly structured and passionate team in 2018. We welcomed Peter Schmiedgen into the newly created Policy and Communications Manager role. Alisha Bourke joined us as Project Coordinator working on the Talkin' Together (TnT) project as well as the NSW Mental Health Consumer Peer Workers Committee. And in the lead up to the end of the financial year, we projected a team expansion with a number of positions being advertised for Policy Officer, Communications Officer, and Executive Support Officer.

# Where we've been and what we're doing.



## Consumer Workers Forum



**80 Peer Workers**

Providing consumer support.

*Being* once again collaborated with the NSW Mental Health Consumer Workers Committee to hold the Annual NSW Consumer Workers Forum on the 23rd and 24th of November 2017. We would like to thank NSW Health - Mental Health Branch for their ongoing support of this event.

Keynote addresses were presented by Minister for Mental Health, Hon. Tanya Davies, Allan Sparkes, Deputy

Commissioner, Mental Health Commission of NSW, Jae Radican NSW State Peer Workforce Coordinator.

In addition to the keynote addresses and workshops presented by peer workers, Irene Gallagher CEO of *Being* facilitated a workshop to assist *Being* to gain a better understanding of support mechanisms required for the peer workforce.

## Recovery in Art 2017

Parliament House, supported by the Hon. Pru Goward MP & her successor, the Hon. Tanya Davies.

'Recovery in Art' is a collection of works created by artists with a lived/living experience of mental health issues from across NSW. The artworks showcased are creative expressions of the artist's journeys of personal recovery. *Being* has previously hosted the Sydney based Recovery in Art exhibition since 2010, and the artistic vision is to create a welcoming and inclusive space for people with mental health issues to express themselves and explore art platforms which assist in the individual's recovery journey.

Holding the exhibition at Parliament House sends a strong message of support to people living with mental health issues and creates a sense of community support.

All of the artworks shown were created by artists with a lived experience of mental health issues.

The NSW parliament generously hosted the exhibition in the Fountain Court exhibition space. We were able to do this thanks to the support of the Hon. Pru Goward MP and her successor the Hon. Tanya Davies, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Women and Minister for Ageing.

The event allowed *Being* to showcase the creativity of artists with lived/living experience of mental health issues and the work of *Being*. In addition to Minister Davies, the attendees at the launch included: Catherine Lourey – NSW Mental Health Commissioner, Alex Greenwich – Member for Sydney, Scott Farlow – Chair of the Parliamentary Friends of Mental Health, Christopher Puplick - Chair of the Board of Justice Health & a number of representatives of Parliament and NSW Health.



Artwork - Davey G



Artwork - Lou Reed



## Alternatives to Suicide

**In March 2018 Being collaborated with Inside Out & Associates Australia to bring Alternatives to Suicide to NSW.**

**Alternatives to Suicide is an innovative peer-led suicide prevention program from the Massachusetts Recovery Learning Community (USA).**

Being and Inside Out & Associates Australia were pleased to bring Caroline Mazel-Carlton and Sera Davidow to Sydney to share in this approach and the programs successes in the USA.

The presenters explained their approach to creating groups, sharing successes and challenges, and allowing participants the opportunity to explore their thoughts towards suicide without fear. By allowing an open dialogue, many group attendees were able to then explore alternative behaviours and tools to minimise risks of suicide. The forum was a powerful showcase for the positive impact of peer support and social connection.

**Being Website**

<http://being.org.au/2018/02/alternatives-to-suicide-forum/>

# Talkin' Together



## Three Focus Areas

Metro. Regional. Remote.

Including Wilcannia, White Cliffs, Menindee.

Early 2018 was the start of Talkin' Together - a major project between Being & NSW Fair Trading. This project aims to assist persons with psychosocial disabilities to understand their rights under Australian Consumer Law when navigating the National Disability Insurance Scheme and will be completely co-designed, co-facilitated and peer-led by people living with mental health issues in Sydney, Newcastle and Broken Hill.

As mental health services are being facilitated under the NDIS framework, it is more important than ever for participants of the Scheme to understand their rights under Australian Consumer Law. The topics that will be discussed include;



Scam awareness, Hiring a Service, Entering a Contract and Making a Complaint.



Broken Hill, NSW

## Projects

### YES Your Experience of Service

This year *Being* has been collaborating with InforMH from the NSW Ministry of Health as they develop the electronic version of the Your Experience of Service (YES) survey. *Being* was previously at the forefront of developing the paper-based survey, and we are excited to see this transform into an even more accessible option.



### NSW Official Visitor's Program

In December we held two consultations on behalf of the NSW Official Visitors Program, as a way of gaining peoples experiences of utilising the program. The outcome of the project was to develop a report with recommendations to inform the OVP on future directions and changes required as best practice for the program.



## 2018 Annual Report

### TheMHS 2017

In 2017 *Being* won a TheMHS mental health service award for its work in 2016 on the Into the Light project. The project produced an Arabic Resource on Psychological Health; a three-part video resource in Arabic. It aims to engage Arabic-speaking communities in NSW on psychological health, distress and seeking help. *Being* is very proud of our achievement in this award and thanks our funding supporters the Mental Health Commission of NSW, New Horizons, Partners in Recovery Inner West Sydney and Ethno Connect.

### HETI Peer Representatives

The Health Education and Training Institute (HETI) provided funding to *Being* to support current peer representatives of HETI through a consultation program.

The program supported the Peer representatives to further develop skills leading them into pathways of either peer educators or peer course writers, building future capacity for HETI to ensure the lived experience voice works in a co-design fashion in their work.

*Being* are grateful to HETI for their financial support in developing this initiative, and valuing the lived/living experience voice.



# Policy & Submissions

## Submissions

Over the 2017-2018 financial year *Being* made submissions to a number of important inquiries:

### OPCAT

The optional protocol to the convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.

In 2017 the Australian Human Rights Commission conducted a consultation into the implementation of the OPCAT protocol, which Australia became a signatory to in December 2017.

In its Submission to this inquiry *Being* advocated for the rights of mental health consumers not to be subject to



cruel degrading, or inhuman treatment. These issues were of particular relevance during 2017 as the Ministry of Health was progressing its review of seclusion and restraint in the wake of Miriam Merten's tragic death in a NSW Health mental health inpatient unit.

## Review of Seclusion and Restraint in NSW - MOH

*Being* also made a direct submission to the Review of Seclusion Restraint and Observation in NSW Health Facilities, initiated to ensure that needless deaths, like that of Miriam Merten, never happen again in NSW mental health facilities. *Being* made 28 recommendations to the review including recommending that

- NSW Health to ensure that Local Health Districts provide services which uphold the principles of trauma-informed care and practice
- All incidents of seclusion are written in patient notes, and debriefs to occur after any incident and that;
- Policies and procedures to be developed as part of the Seclusion and Restraint review and reporting process which recognise the prevalence of trauma and trauma histories

*Being* has been continuing to actively collaborate with NSW Health to ensure that the needs and voices of mental health consumers/survivors in NSW are heard during the implementation process as well.

*Being* CEO Irene Gallagher and other *Being* staff also attended a number of the community consultations held by NSW Health as part of the Review of Seclusion Restraint and Observation in NSW Health Facilities.



## What would it take to prevent suicide in the community?

### – NSW Mental Health Commission

In May 2018 the Mental Health Commission of NSW invited *Being* to provide a submission to the consultation carried out to develop the new *Strategic Framework for Suicide Prevention in NSW 2018-2023*.

This provided a great opportunity for *Being* to advocate for people with lived experience of suicidality. Recommendations included developing a suicide register in NSW to provide data for further research, implementation of

regional hubs that are able to facilitate interagency referral and coordination and research into user journeys within the mental health system that will assist with the development of improved referral pathways.



## Accessibility and quality of rural mental health



*Being* also had a submission accepted by an inquiry at the federal level in 2018. The Senate Community Affairs Reference Committee held an inquiry into the accessibility and quality of mental health services in rural and remote Australia. Recommendations made to the inquiry included giving consideration to the

development of youth peer work roles in rural and remote areas, the inclusion of local populations in the co-design of services and also the continuation of funding to forums which allow community knowledge to be shared and community support to be provided.



## External Committees

Being contributed to a number of external committees over the 2017/2018 financial year:

- Policy Briefing on changes to Mental Health Act legislation – provided to Minister for Mental Health, Shadow Minister for Mental Health, Greens Minister for Mental Health and independents
- Response to the review of the NSW Mental Health Commission report
- NSW Trauma Informed Planning Committee
- Review of the Mental Health Commission
- Sydney University Peer Workforce Experiences Survey Advisory Committee
- MHCC Board
- MHB Child & Youth Mental Health Sub Committee
- e-YES Implementation Committee
- Peer to Peer Project/ Dept. Fair Trading
- Ministry of Health Expert working Group Meeting
- NCOSS – Youth Hackathon
- MHDA Root Cause Analysis Sub-Committee
- Older Persons Mental Health Working Group
- Child and Youth Mental Health Sub-Committee
- NSW Trauma Informed Planning Committee
- Mental Health Workforce Planning Committee
- Mental Health Commission Reference Group Workshop

# Being Committees.

## Community Advisory Committee

At the beginning of 2018 *Being* facilitated the inaugural Consumer Advisory Committee as a way of bringing a collective group of people who identify as having lived/living experience of mental health issues and sought their expertise on a number of matters including:

- To provide expert advice of best practice needed in the health sector to support people with mental health issues.
- To provide input and ideas into approaches for *Being* to explore, such as the development of resources, training, and mentoring programs.
- To inform *Being* of issues affecting people with lived/living experience of mental health issues, both for those accessing mental health services and those who are yet to access services.
- To inform *Being* on best practice methods to support the expansion of the peer workforce in NSW.

## Peer Workforce Network Committee

*Being* acknowledges the value of the Peer Workforce in supporting individuals recovery and wellbeing.

Based on information received through the consumer worker forums and a recent survey of peer workers, *Being* facilitated in early 2018 the inaugural NSW Peer Workforce Network

Committee to look at approaches to strengthen the collaborations of peer workers across the public, private and CMO/NGO sector to include networking opportunities, workforce needs, strategies to inform best practice and support mechanisms.



Again we have found that a consistent theme is the importance of a supported peer workforce. The value of lived experience and its ability to assist persons at all stages of mental health treatment and care is highly regarded. There is a need and desire for Peer Workers to have access to training and resources, as well as continued professional development.

### Consultations

#### Offline

- Mid-North Coast
- African Community Leaders
- NDIS and mental health

#### Surveys

- Seclusion and restraint
- NSW Peer workforce
- Experience with ECT
- NDIS and Mental Health

# Collective Purpose Meetings.

## Collective Purpose Committees

Throughout 2017/2018 *Being* attended monthly two hour Collective Purpose Management meetings as part of its partnership responsibilities. These meetings addressed the administrative challenges that arose in the day to day management of collective purpose. During 2018 *Being* was represented at these meetings by the Policy and Communications Manager *Being*.

The CEO of *Being* Irene Gallagher attended two hour monthly meetings of the Collective Purpose Steering Committee with the CEOs of Mental Health Carers NSW and Way Ahead.

# Financial Reports.

## The Consumer Sub Committee.

Being has had a long-standing history of co-chairing the Consumer Sub Committee with representatives of the Ministry Of Health-Mental Health Branch.

This committee represents key consumer views and provides feedback to the Program Council on current issues, consisting of all Local Health District

and Specialty Network Directors across NSW and also representatives from other organisations such as HETI, Mental Health Coordinating Council, Mental Health Carers NSW. We thank the Ministry of Health – Mental Health Branch for their continued support of Being to be involved with this important committee.



Pictured: Being Staff



The Board,  
 NSW Consumer Advisory Group - Mental Health Inc.  
 Suite 501, Level 5  
 80 William Street  
 SYDNEY, NSW, 2000

Dear Board Members,

We have completed our examination of your Association's books of account for the year ended 30 June 2018 and attach hereto for your information the following Statements:-

- (1) Board Declaration.
- (2) Auditor's Independence Declaration to the Board Members.
- (3) Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2018.
- (4) Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2018.
- (5) Statement of Changes in Members' Funds for the year ended 30 June 2018.
- (6) Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 30 June 2018.
- (7) Notes to and Forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2018.
- (8) Auditor's Report to the Members.
- (9) Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement & Disclaimer of additional financial data.
- (10) Auditor's Report, and Statement of Income and Expenditure - Core Funding
- (11) Auditor's Report, and Statement of Income and Expenditure - Untied Funds
- (12) Auditor's Report, and Statement of Income and Expenditure - Consumer Workers Committee Project
- (13) Auditor's Report, and Statement of Income and Expenditure, Health Education and Training Institute - Outsourcing of Sessional Consumer And Carer Academic Consultants Project.
- (14) Auditor's Report, and Statement of Income and Expenditure, Health Administration Corporation - Peerwork Force Project
- (15) Auditor's Report, and Statement of Income and Expenditure, Department of Finance, Services and Innovation - Consumer Awareness Peer To Peer Strategy Program.

Yours faithfully,

*Thomas Davis & Co*

**NSW CONSUMER ADVISORY GROUP - MENTAL HEALTH INC**  
**ABN 82 549 537 349**

**STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD**

The Board has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

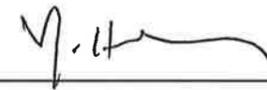
In the opinion of the Board the financial report:

- (a) Is in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act); and
  - (i) Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of NSW Consumer Advisory Group - Mental Health Inc. as at 30 June 2018 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
  - (ii) comply with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent outlined in Note 1 and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013;
- (b) At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that NSW Consumer Advisory Group - Mental Health Inc. Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board and is signed for and on behalf of the Board and in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

  
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**Anne Francis**  
**Chairperson**

  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Sunny Hemraj**  
**Treasurer**

SYDNEY,

Date: 15 November 2018

NSW CONSUMER ADVISORY GROUP - MENTAL HEALTH INC  
ABN 82 549 537 349

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AS AT 30TH JUNE 2018

	Notes	2018 \$	2017 \$
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash assets	5	285,629	212,226
Receivables	6	189,119	27,585
Other assets	7	50,175	43,970
<b>Total current assets</b>		<u>524,923</u>	<u>283,781</u>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Other assets	8	60,000	80,000
Property, plant and equipment	9	5,138	3,301
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<u>65,138</u>	<u>83,301</u>
<b>Total assets</b>		<u>590,061</u>	<u>367,082</u>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Payables	10	211,748	127,468
Provisions	11	46,660	11,396
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<u>258,408</u>	<u>138,864</u>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Provisions	11	-	-
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<u>258,408</u>	<u>138,864</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>331,653</u>	<u>228,218</u>
<b>Members Funds</b>			
Retained funds	16	331,653	228,218
<b>Total Members Funds</b>		<u>331,653</u>	<u>228,218</u>

The Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

NSW CONSUMER ADVISORY GROUP - MENTAL HEALTH INC  
ABN 82 549 537 349

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2018

	Notes	2018 \$	2017 \$
Revenue from ordinary activities	2	908,575	777,494
Expenses from ordinary activities:			
Employee expenses	3	(449,818)	(389,245)
Other expenses from ordinary activities	3	(355,322)	(368,118)
Surplus / (deficit) from ordinary activities before income tax expense		103,435	20,131
Income tax revenue / (expense) relating to ordinary activities	4	-	-
Surplus / (deficit) from ordinary activities after income tax expense		103,435	20,131
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-
<b>Total Comprehensive Income for the Year</b>		<u>103,435</u>	<u>20,131</u>

The Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2018

	Notes	2018	2017
		\$	\$
		Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Cash Receipts		836,292	774,679
Cash payments to suppliers and employees		(761,359)	(732,312)
<b>Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities</b>	13(b)	<u>74,933</u>	<u>42,367</u>
<b>Cash flow from investing activities</b>			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(2,659)	-
<b>Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities</b>		<u>(2,659)</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Cash flow from financing activities</b>			
Received from collective purpose		1,129	-
<b>Net cash provided by / (used in) financing activities</b>		<u>1,129</u>	<u>-</u>
Net increase / (decrease) in cash held		73,403	42,367
Cash at the beginning of the financial year		212,226	169,859
<b>Cash at the end of the financial year</b>	13(a)	<u>285,629</u>	<u>212,226</u>

The Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF NSW CONSUMER ADVISORY GROUP -  
MENTAL HEALTH INC  
ABN 82 549 537 349

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of NSW Consumer Advisory Group - Mental Health Inc.; which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2018, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in members' funds and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the statement by members of the Board.

In our opinion, the financial report of NSW Consumer Advisory Group - Mental Health Inc.; has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including;

- (a) giving a true and fair view of NSW Consumer Advisory Group - Mental Health Inc.; financial position as at 30 June, 2018 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110: Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution and Use

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling NSW Consumer Advisory Group - Mental Health Inc.; financial reporting responsibilities under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of the Members of the Board for the Financial Report

The member of the Board are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the needs of the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The members of the Board responsibility also includes such internal control as the members of the Board determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the members of the Board are responsible for assessing the association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the members of the committee either intend to liquidate the association or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.



THOMAS DAVIS & CO  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

ESTABLISHED 1894

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mail@thomasdavis.com.au

**Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the members of the Board.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the members of the Board's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the members of the Board regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

THOMAS DAVIS & CO.

J G RYAN PARTNER

Chartered Accountants

SYDNEY,

Date: 15 November 2018

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT  
TO THE MEMBERS OF NSW CONSUMER ADVISORY GROUP - MENTAL HEALTH INC  
HEALTH EDUCATION AND TRAINING INSTITUTE - OUTSOURCING OF SESSIONAL CONSUMER AND CARER ACADEMIC CONSULTANTS PROJECT  
ABN 82 549 537 349

**Opinion**

We have audited the attached Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 30 June 2018 of NSW Consumer Advisory Group - Mental Health Inc, in respect of the Outsourcing of Sessional Consumer and Carer Academic Consultants Project

In our opinion, the Statement of Income and Expenditure, gives true and fair view in all material respects, the result of the Outsourcing of Sessional Consumer and Carer Academic Consultants Project in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement.

**Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110: Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution and Use**

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to the fact that the Statement of Income & Expenditure has been prepared in accordance with the Grant Agreement. As a result, the Statement of Income and Expenditure should not be distributed to or used by any other parties.

**The Responsibility of the Association's Management**

The Association's management are responsible for the preparation of the Statement and have determined that the accounting policies used are appropriate to meet the financial reporting requirements of the Grant Agreement and meeting the needs of the members. The Association's management responsibility also includes such internal control as the management determines necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

**Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Statement of Income and Expenditure**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the members of the Board.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the members of the Board regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

THOMAS DAVIS & CO.

J G RYAN PARTNER

Chartered Accountants

SYDNEY  
Date: 15 November 2018



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CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS AUSTRALIA • NEW ZEALAND

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018**  
**NSW CONSUMER ADVISORY GROUP - MENTAL HEALTH INC**  
**HEALTH ADMINISTRATION CORPORATION - PEERWORK FORCE PROJECT**

	Notes	2018 \$	2017 \$
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>			
Grants		5,000.00	30,000.00
		5,000.00	30,000.00
<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>			
Co-location Expenses		4,800.00	-
Management Fees		7,722.00	-
S&W - Annual Leave		1,305.92	-
S&W - Personal/Carers Lve		326.00	-
S&W - Superannuation Empl Exp		1,859.48	-
W&S - Wages & Salaries		18,940.67	-
		34,954.07	-
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	1	(29,954.07)	30,000.00

**Being Mental Health & Wellbeing  
Consumer Advisory Group**

Suite 501 Level 5,  
80 William Street  
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**Contact**

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