

**Mental Health
Australia**



**Building Stronger
Alliances for Services
for People with Mental
Health Disabilities**

Jobs Australia National
Conference
Melbourne 2014

Mentally healthy people,
mentally healthy communities

mhaustralia.org



Context for our discussion

- 2014 Budget
- NMHC - National Mental Health Commission Review
- McClure - Welfare System Review
- NDIS Roll-out
- Federation Whitepaper





2014 Budget

- Mental health largely isolated
- Mental health impacts potentially felt in proposed changes to DSP, Carers and unemployment benefits
- Political uncertainty in the Senate creates political hair trigger
- Ongoing fiscal constraints



National Review of Mental Health Services and Programmes?

- Examining Commonwealth services and programs
- Overlaps and gaps with state and territory programs?
- Links to programs like employment, housing, financial support?
- Commonwealth state relationships and governance



McClure – Welfare review

- Inadequate payments, poverty traps, perverse incentives make the review welcome
- McClure has rightly identified factors other than payments – supports, capacity, opportunity
- Once again, links to other reviews and processes are unclear



NDIS rollout

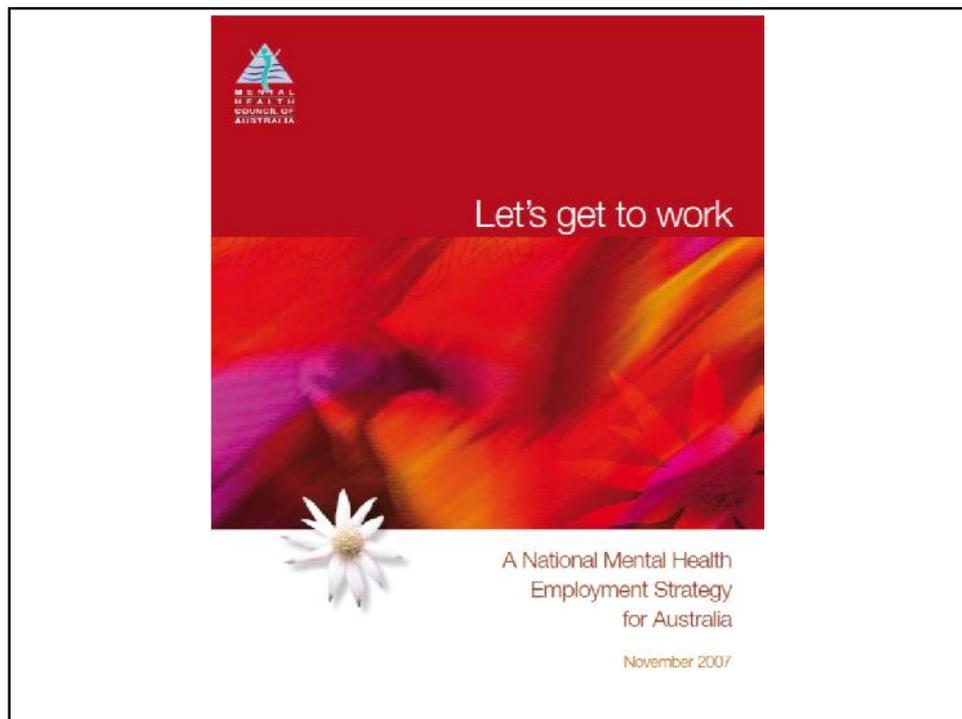
- Early days of a staged rollout
- Captures many state and Commonwealth programs in its net
- Bi-lateral agreements were negotiated without input from NGO and other relevant parties
- Continues to represent a fundamental shift in our approach to services



Federation whitepaper

- Commonwealth state relations are at the core of many service issues
- Mental health is a good example of programs caught at the cusp
- Commonwealth state relations remain unpredictable
- Commonwealth government will be starting to build its pre-election platform





Barriers to Employment

- Episodic nature of mental illness
- The current income support system
- Service delivery silos
- Stigma
- Expectations and attitudes
- Availability of ongoing support



Principles for good services

- Provide skills and build capacity of people experiencing disability
- Provide skills and build capacity of employers and workplaces
- Individualised support and planning
- Flexible workplace arrangements and job design

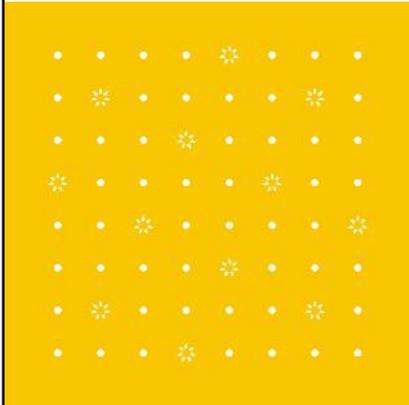


Principles for good services

- Partnerships between employers and employment service providers
- Taxation and welfare systems work together to eliminate traps and barriers
- Role of long term, ongoing support
- Role of intermediate labour markets and programs



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