
QUEENSLAND TRANSITION TO NDIS – MENTAL HEALTH STRATEGIC FORUM (QTN MF Strategic Forum)

Terms of reference

1. Purpose

The Strategic Forum provides a mechanism to discuss the specific issues for people who live with a mental illness, mental health service providers, representative bodies and state and commonwealth governments in the plans to roll-out the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in Queensland.

The purpose of the forum is to:

- identify a way forward so that people with mental health issues in Queensland get the best possible outcomes from NDIS and support is maintained for people with mental health issues who do not qualify for NDIS.
- explore opportunities for holistic service system co-design including strategies for coordination across service types to support people with mental health issues particularly those with complex needs. This should include revising current service delivery, investment and funding arrangements in discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities consistent with the Queensland Government's other related initiatives.
- ensure stakeholder consultation mechanisms support on-going engagement, consultation and planning for change across service systems.

2. Role

The Forum Members will develop a shared vision for a future service system once NDIS is implemented. The members will work together to consider issues and plan for the introduction of NDIS in Queensland.

The forum will be a collaborative mechanism to:

- raise and share issues facing organisations and people with mental health issues and their families and carers in the transition to NDIS, and identify workable solutions
- understand the financial implications and workforce requirements for optimal implementation of the NDIS
- communicate and engage with the sector and wider community to ensure unintended consequences are understood and where possible, mitigated
- identify and resolve problems early
- provide ongoing engagement, consultation and planning for change across service systems in Queensland, with particular regard to regional, rural and remote areas

- look for opportunities to embed culturally appropriate ways of working to design and deliver effective services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds experiencing mental health issues
- closely monitor the progress of the early launch of the NDIS in North Queensland and identify issues and evidence that might inform the broader policy, design and implementation of the NDIS and the ongoing service provision to people living with mental health issues who do not qualify for NDIS.

3. Membership Groups

There are two membership groups to support operation of the Strategic Forum.

1. Core Working Group - a small core working group will meet more regularly than the Full Working Group to plan and steer the activities of the Full Working Group. The smaller working group will consist of key strategic stakeholders based in Queensland.
2. Full Working Group – will consist of members of the core working group, state and federal Government representatives, National sector representatives and other Queensland sector representatives.

4. Organisation

The Queensland Alliance for Mental Health (QAMH) will take a lead in organising the meetings, managing correspondence, providing a secretariat function, organising speakers and chairing of the meetings.

5. Schedule of Meetings

The Core Working Group and the Full Working Group will meet twice per annum until the NDIS has been fully implemented in Queensland, after which the group can review the need and frequency for further meetings.