

More things for you

- The Carers Network aims to keep mental health carers informed of our work, latest policy developments, upcoming conferences and research via member organisations' newsletters and our website, which features items such as
 - o Translated help tips
 - o Up-to-date news and events
 - o Current projects

www.carersnetwork.org.au

- The Carers Network brings a carer-based perspective to mental health conferences and meetings in Victoria, organising carer sessions and forums as appropriate.
- The Carers Network works in partnership with the Department of Human Services and other relevant stakeholders in undertaking various projects that involve evidence based approaches. The Network is committed to carer experiences being a central focus to inform continuous improvement and contribute to policy and service reform.



The Carers Network includes individual carers and representatives from:

- Rural services
- Family therapy services
- High prevalence disorder services
- Culturally and linguistically diverse services (CALD)
- Psychiatric disability rehabilitation support services (PDRSS)
- Carer Consultants
- Carer Resource workers
- Carer Academic
- Individuals representing carer groups

If you would like to support the work of the Victorian Mental Health Carers Network please contact us regarding donations and bequests that would support project and advocacy initiatives and the goals outlined in our Statement of Purposes.



Victorian
Mental Health
Carers Network Inc.

Mission

To ensure recognition of the contribution, experiences and needs of carers and families

Vision

Carers of people with mental health issues will be partners in treatment and service delivery and the lived experience of carers will be a key driver of policy and program formation

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Values

- Respect and recognition for the contribution that carers make to the lives of people with mental health issues.
- Justice and equity – all people affected by mental health issues should have the same access to services and to community life as other community members.
- Inclusion of carers in all aspects of mental health treatment and care.
- Recognition of the diversity of carers.
- Commitment to recovery, personal dignity and empowerment for people who have mental health issues.
- Passion and commitment – focusing all we do on achieving positive outcomes for consumers, carers and families.
- Innovation – using an experienced-based approach to policy and program issues to respond to challenges in the service sector.
- Critical analysis – influencing the formulation of policy using an evidence-based approach.
- Partnership and collaboration.

Who we are

A carer is a family member or friend who supports a person with a mental illness.

The Carers Network is the Victorian peak body of organisations and groups which supports carers of people with a mental illness.

It is also a not-for-profit Incorporated Association.

It comprises:

- Carers or former carers linked with carer groups
- Representatives of statewide organisations with a significant carer focus
- Workers from programs which support carers
- Victorian Carer Academic

It includes representatives with experience in child and adolescent services, adult, and aged services

Please contact the Carers Network with your enquiries about becoming a member. Our membership categories are:

- Organisation Members
- Representative Members
- Associate Members

What we aim to do for you

- As the peak body for mental health carers in Victoria and for organisations with a carer support focus, we facilitate communication between carers, government and other stakeholders and advocate for policy change.
- Help raise community awareness about mental health issues.
- Provide information, education and training to members and others involved in caring for people with mental health issues.
- Support carer participation in the planning, delivery and evaluation of services by facilitating relationships between carers and carer-focused organisations.
- Support and advocate for the needs of diverse carers.
- Encourage research on best practice in carer support.

Our Statement of Purposes outlines this more fully - please see our website.

You can raise issues on behalf of a group of carers or a carer organisation by email: info@carersnetwork.org.au or by contacting any of our member organisation representatives listed on our website: www.carersnetwork.org.au