

Issue 4 – 29 July 2015

Centre for Excellence for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Expert Advisory Panel

Expert panel meeting update

The expert advisory panel, co-chaired by Associate Professor Susan Neuhaus C.S.C. and Professor Dorothy Keefe P.S.M. held its fourth and final workshop on Tuesday, 21 July 2015.

Professor David Forbes, an invited guest from Phoenix Australia – Centre for Post Traumatic Mental Health, explained the role of the organisation in promoting recovery for the many Australians affected by trauma each year. Phoenix Australia has an internationally recognised research program and has formed strong links around Australia to advance the scientific knowledge and understanding of trauma across survivors their families and the broader community.

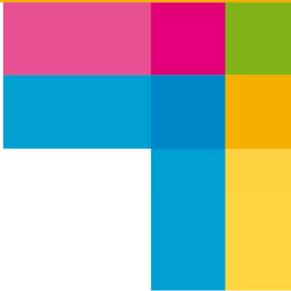
Professor Forbes spoke of the importance of getting evidence-based interventions into practice to improve outcomes for people affected by trauma, and in particular, ensuring that service development work is informed by research and then translated into training. During his presentation he acknowledged the excellent work that is occurring at Ward 17 and the PTSD Unit in South Australia.

Following the presentation the panel then focussed on discussing the site visits that occurred after the last meeting as part of its due diligence process. This discussion resulted in a unanimous decision by the Expert Panel regarding a potential site.

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A detailed report outlining all the steps undertaken to reach this agreement is being prepared by the Panel and will be forwarded to the Minister for Health when complete.

With the key elements of a Model of Care now determined and a potential location recommended for a Centre for Excellence for the treatment of PTSD for veterans, the work of the panel is now complete. Professor Dorothy Keefe expressed gratitude and thanks to Associate Professor Susan Neuhaus for her leadership and to all the members of the Expert Panel for their valuable contributions to the discussions.

Next steps...

The Expert Panel recognises that further work is required to address the detailed requirements of the Centre of Excellence. Specifically:

- ✚ Detailed clinical pathways and clinical governance frameworks
- ✚ Detailed workforce plans
- ✚ Partnership agreements with State, Commonwealth and non-government agencies
- ✚ Research partnerships, governance and funding
- ✚ Architectural integration of clinical inpatient, outpatient and research space

Information regarding how interested parties can be involved in the next phase will be released after the Minister for Health has had an opportunity to read the report and make an announcement regarding the preferred location of the new Centre for Excellence for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in South Australia.

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