



Rhonda's June Rave

Development of a Community Mental Health & More Training and Resource Centre

When planning for The Hub began it was recognised that this was an opportunity to create a facility which would utilise the diverse skills of staff, carers & consumers and create an opportunity to make available resources for more effective health outcomes for people with mental health issues and their families. A one stop shop with clear linkages to service types, access to technology and the information, it will provide pathways to and including, emergency services, affordable medications, primary health care, housing, employment, opportunities for social inclusion and other supports for community living.

This community connection will be enhanced through the involvement of interested community members. The Hub will be available for use free of charge to community groups, families and individuals, providing an opportunity to increase their knowledge around the issues affecting their lives. The Hub will have experts on hand as both consumers and carers well versed in the world of mental health assist support and guide them on their own personal journey.

As well as face to face interaction, practical resources and written material, basic training and computer access will enable consumers, family members, friends, community workers and health professionals to ask the questions and find the answers.

The aim is to offer a well equipped, inviting facility which encourages competency, empowerment and resilience, with a no wrong door policy and a sense of hope. "Hope is a desire accompanied by confident expectation. Having a sense of hope is the foundation for

ongoing recovery from mental illness. Even the smallest belief that we can get better, as others have, can fuel the recovery process" (Sullivan, W.P. 1997, A long and winding road)

Through collaboration and sharing information service mapping, gap analysis and needs assessment will be ongoing and data collected and reported. Some gaps already identified by the carer & consumer working group include; squalor and hoarding, access to public and private psychiatric assessments, early intervention support and advocacy services, difficulties in building respectful and meaningful partnerships.

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