

## Proposed changes to the service delivery model for MARS Inc

### WEEKLY UPDATE 1

The Review Panel last met on 23 February 2010. Next meeting is scheduled for 1pm 2 March 2010.

The Terms of Reference have been amended and are now finalised. (see attached)

The Panel will hold a range of face to face consultations with people directly affected by the proposed changes; others who are interested may provide written input via the Review Panel Chair; this will be advertised through NSW CAG's, ARAFMI's, and MHCC's weekly newsletters and websites.

Consultations will be conducted with:

- Consumers – 3 consultations
- Carers – 3 consultations
- Board of MARS Inc
- Area Health Service Staff including staff of CREATE Team

See Schedule (attachment)

Written comments or other relevant information can be sent to:

Regina Osten,  
Manager, Prevention and Community Partnerships  
MHDAO  
Level 4, 73 Miller St  
North Sydney  
Or email to [roste@doh.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:roste@doh.health.nsw.gov.au)

A summary of the Walter Turnbull Report has been prepared. See attached.

The Review Panel is collecting information from around the state on similar programs of vocational rehabilitation and employment services.

## **Questions from 24 February 2010 meeting:**

*Consultation with the MARS Inc Board.*

The Review Panel will meet with the MARS Inc Board on 5 March 2010. The Board will have the opportunity to raise any issues or concerns and provide information through this process.

*What constitutes "evidence based best practice"*

Evidence Based Practice is a process in which research is applied to verify practice. Evidence-based practice requires informed decisions which combine research evidence, clinical expertise, patient preferences and circumstance to arrive at the most appropriate course of treatment/intervention.

Similarly, evidence-based policies take account of the research evidence of the effects of care, as well as information about population needs, priorities and resources.

PLAIN ENGLISH Version

Evidence Based Practice is when research evidence is used along with experience, knowledge, and consumers choice to find the most effective forms of treatment or intervention to achieve personal goals.

*How much does budget plays a role in considering what is considered to be evidence based best practice.*

None, evidence based practice uses research evidence to identify the most effective forms of treatment/intervention. Funding may play a role in whether particular forms of evidence based practice are used ie they may not be used if funding is not available.

*Inclusion of a consumer and carer from the group to be included on the Review Panel.*

The Review Panel will undertake face to face consultations with consumers and carers (3 each). The Review Panel will also schedule additional meetings to consult and update identified consumer and carer representatives.

The panel consists of representatives who are independent of, and external to the services involved and NSCCAHS.

*Consider proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference.*

The Terms of Reference have been amended and are now finalised. (see attached)

*Update on Westview.*

Information is still being sought and collated.

*How many other services throughout the state are similar to Cornucopia Café, and how many people fall in the group who are not unwell enough to be in hospital, but who are not able to be incorporated into general employment. This information to be presented to the group.*

The Review Panel is collecting information on similar programs and services around NSW, and information about the size of the population of mental health consumers needing supported employment and vocational rehabilitation services.

This information will be presented at consultation sessions for consumers and carers.

*Information to be disseminated through NSW CAG's and ARAFMI's weekly email and website, and that it was envisaged this would also occur through MHCC.*

This will occur as well as face to face consultations.