
MEMO

To: Board Members

From: Judith Holmes
Consumer Council Chair

Date: 17 February 2020

Subject: **Consumer Council Report**

On Monday 16 March 2020, the Consumer Council met in Nelson.

The Consumer Council had been asked to consult with the coordinator of the local Suicide Prevention Strategy and Prevention Action Plan along with the consumer representative for Mental Health Services after an in depth reading of the New Zealand Government Ministry of Health paper: Every Life Matters.

Following a brief PowerPoint Presentation outlining statistics and trends of particular significance to our NMDHB population, all council members gave prepared feedback on the strategies and plans from their own experience and that of community groups which they represent or liaise with.

The feedback (too prolific and detailed to summarise here) was considered valuable in the process of adapting the national plan to that which is most pertinent to our local environment and probably represents an excellent example of the Consumer Council functioning as intended. Ongoing consultation will occur as the plan moves from draft to final status.

We also discussed issues related to the three committees on which we maintain representation: Clinical Governance Committee, Choosing Wisely and the Advanced Care Plan. Significant points arising from those discussions included:

- The ongoing concerns that we all have as an organisation on the appropriate stance to take on the wisdom of recommending vaping as a tool in smoking cessation,
- The rapidly changing status of the impact of the COVID-19 virus on our community and the need to inform the public of considerations relating to its prevention, containment and treatment.
- Concern for staff and burnout from all the extra things required of them as time goes on, not only related to COVID-19 but all the surveys, evaluation instruments etc. that we load on to them.

The wisdom of finely tuning our collective requests of staff remains important.

Judith Holmes
Consumer Council Chair

RECOMMENDATION: THAT THE BOARD RECEIVES THE CONSUMER COUNCIL REPORT.