



KEMPSEY
Shire Council

DELEGATE'S REPORT

3rd February 2009

DR1	HASTINGS / MACLEAY MENTAL HEALTH REHABILITATION FORUM FILE: 419 SJR (NRN) {Folio No. *}
------------	--

SUMMARY:

Reporting on the Hastings / Macleay Mental Health Rehabilitation Forum held at Council Chambers on 10th December 2008 commencing at 10.00am.

◇◇◇◇◇◇

DESCRIPTION:

This meeting was attended by representatives of several service providers (see list [Appendix A - Page F1](#)) with some noticeable absences. Area health Services were well represented, however, no other government agencies.

This meeting was for information sharing by the Mental Health Service providers present, including an update on any increases in service provision.

From the discussion, it appears that there is a slight increase in Mental Health Service provision by some of the non government agencies. However, there does not appear to be any increase from any government agencies.

Some of the issues discussed were:

- Presentation on increased services by New Horizons and Mission Australia.
- Continuing need to update relevant community directories (this has been ongoing since 2007). One of the issues is the need for NGO's to refer all information to be shared to their respective head offices prior to action.
- Need for a link from Council website to other directories (relevant to our Social Plan implementation).
- Continuing need for current mailing lists (not all service providers have notified their details).

- Outline of Rotary sponsored Community Mental Health Forum to be held early 2009 and request for representative from the group. Cindi Rees nominated.
- Outline of Kempsey Council's involvement in social issues (including Mental Health). Not Council's role to provide services. However, Council is required to have a Current Social Plan, it is required to ensure that the services which the community need are available, and to update our Social Plan accordingly.

Next meeting 11th March 2009 at Kempsey Shire Council commencing 10.00am

While this is an information sharing and lobbying group I was disappointed on the lack of action. However, this was my first meeting with this group.

RECOMMENDATION IMPLICATIONS:

- *Environmental*

Nil

- *Social*

Mental Health services are required to provide adequate services to our community. These services must include not only inpatient and medical services but also proper support services to enable those residents who do have a mental illness to recover and become active members of our community again. Also to educate our community on Mental Health issues

- *Economic (Financial)*

Nil

- *Policy or Statutory*

Nil

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the information be noted.
2. That Council continue to monitor this committee re positive outcomes.

.....
COUNCILLOR E A GREEN