



## DELEGATE'S REPORT

13 October 2009

<b>DR5</b>	<b>MENTAL HEALTH QUARTERLY FORUM</b>
<b>FILE: 419</b>	<b>KEO (NRN) {FOLIO NO. *}</b>

### SUMMARY:

Delegate's report on Kempsey quarterly Mental Health Forum.

◆◆◆◆◆

### DESCRIPTION:

Report on attendance at the quarterly Kempsey Mental Health Forum held at council committee room on Wednesday 9 September 2009.

This was a small meeting to review current service provision and identify gaps in services.

The object of Kempsey Shire Council attending these quarterly meetings is to obtain a view of all the services currently being provided to people with a mental health issue in our shire. This includes government, non government organisations (NGOs) private practitioners, medical, counselling, support and volunteer services.

Unfortunately, to date it has been very difficult to obtain a clear picture of just what services are providing care for those with mental illness in our community.

It has been identified that there are three distinct groups providing such services/care in the Kempsey Shire.

1. Formal services (represented at the mental health forum) government and NGOs.
2. Informal, including self-help groups (part of the mental health network)
3. Carers.

Kempsey Shire community services department has for several years been trying to obtain a list of all such services to include in our community directory. As a result of this meeting and a subsequent meeting with the mental health network a list of all service providers in the network is to be provided at their next meeting on 20 October 2009 for addition to our community services directory. A representative of the mental health network will also be asked to attend the mental health forum on a regular basis so as to keep everyone informed.

It became apparent at the mental health network meeting that there is a formal link between the network and the mental health service in Kempsey.

## **RCOMMENDATION IMPLICATIONS:**

- ***Environment:***

*Nil*

- ***Social:***

*Council needs to ensure (as part of our social plan) that the mental health services required/needed by our community are being provided.*

- ***Financial/economic:***

*Cost of attending the meetings and of maintaining the available services list on our Community Directory.*

- ***Policy or Statutory:***

*Nil*

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. **That the information be noted**
2. **That the General Manager arrange for Council's Community Directory to be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure all Mental Health services are included.**

.....  
**COUNCILLOR E A GREEN**