

Community Participation Structures

Staff Structures

There is one full time dedicated senior community participation position plus a part-time Administrative Support position at the Area level as well as either a full or part time senior position in each sector.

There is one part time (at least) Mental Health Consumer Coordinator at the Area level and one part time (at least) Mental Health Consumer Advocate position in each sector (Fairfield and Liverpool Mental Health sectors are combined).

There is an Area Community Participation Staff Network to support all staff that work in or have an interest in community participation.

Community Participation Structures

There are formal structures for the ongoing participation of consumers, carers and community in health service decision-making and more will develop over time. Existing structures include:

- The SWSAHS and Sector Community Representatives Networks;
- SWSAHS Consumer/ Community Council;
- Macarthur Health Community Council (MHCC);
- The SWSAHS Aboriginal Health Partnership & Sector Aboriginal Liaison Committees;
- Mental Health Consumer Network;
- Mental Health Carers Network;
- The SWSAHS Disability Reference Group and Sector Disability Reference Groups;
- SWSAHS and Sector Multicultural Advisory Committees.

The SWSAHS Community Representatives Network is an autonomous, independent community body, comprised of community representatives and representatives who participate in SWSAHS at either Sector or Area levels. SWSAHS provides resources for the Network including SWSAHS and Sector Coordinators, a secretariat role and meeting spaces etc. The role of the SWSAHS Community Representatives Network is to:

- advocate for consumer, carer and community participation across SWSAHS;
- enhance the understanding of health services in the community;
- make recommendations and resolutions on common issues and concerns to the SWSAHS Consumer/ Community Council ;
- facilitate the sharing of information between sector networks;
- receive and consider draft health plans from SWSAHS.

The SWSAHS Consumer/ Community Council is the executive of the SWSAHS Community Representatives Network. The role of the Consumer/ Community Council is to:

- formulate more defined purposes, objectives and strategies for the SWSAHS Community Representatives Network;
- manage the operation of the SWSAHS Consumer/ Community Council;

- advocate for consumer/community participation in SWSAHS;
- be a strategic link between SWSAHS and the South Western Sydney community;
- monitor the commitment of SWSAHS to the South Western Sydney community;
- present the views, recommendations and resolutions of the Area Community Representatives Network to SWSAHS; and
- provide feedback from SWSAHS to the Area Community Representatives Network.

The Consumer/ Community Council meets with the Board of SWSAHS at least twice a year. There is a set of guidelines for the operation of the Network and the Consumer/ Community Council (Appendix 12). The SWSAHS Community Representatives Network develops links and partnerships with each of the community representative structures.

SWSAHS COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION STRUCTURES

Community

- COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE FOLLOWING PROCESSES (for example):
- Memorandum of Understanding;
 - Partnerships with Agencies;
 - Planning;
 - Working Groups;
 - Advisory Committees;
 - Focus Groups;
 - Health Committees;
 - Accreditation;
 - Consultative Committees

