



Strengthening the Consumer Voice

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**Consumer
Participation
Group** LCSM Region

Introduction

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The CPG

The Consumer Participation Group is a partnership of consumers and representatives from the clinical and community based services, in the Loddon Campaspe Southern Mallee region of Victoria, that work to 'build better mental health services together'.



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Why CPG?

- In the mental health sector, the name of the group is significant in identifying “what” we do.
- Consumer refers to people who have direct experience of mental illness and have used or are currently using mental health services.
- Participation - involve consumers in decision making across services and systems.

CPG members

Consists of;

- 6 consumers, (increasing to 7)
- 2 staff from regional health service (Bendigo Health),
- 1 Victorian Dept. of Health,
- 3 MHCSS (Mental Health Community Support Services) *new*,
- 1 PIR
- 1 support staff,
- a carer and other people as needed, such as a Project Worker

Project

“Strengthening the Consumer Voice” (SCV) is a project that was commissioned by the CPG at the start of 2014

Purpose to navigate our role and inform our work in the midst of significant Victorian mental health reform along with national reforms, such as the NDIS.

In Dec 2014, the CPG was a successful applicant for the **Loddon Mallee Murray PIR** funded **Innovation Fund** for a project focused on implementing the recommendations from the SCV report.

Membership terms

Changed terms used to define members to reflect the importance of the consumer members.

FROM

Consumers

Service Providers, and

Others

TO

Full

Associate, and

Network

Meeting format

Modified meeting format to allow “consumer only” time to reflect or discuss matters raised in meetings.

FROM

0 - 30 mins – Guest

30 – 90 mins – All members

TO

0 – 30 mins – Guest

30 – 75 mins – All members

75 – 90 mins – Full members