

## NDIS Submission April-2015

I would like to begin this submission with a request that the descriptive title for people accessing mental health services be changed from the current title of "consumer" to a more neutral, less offensive, more respectful and dignified title of "Primary Participant".

I have often heard justification for disallowing access to the NDIS for many people living with a mental illness on the basis that their illness can be episodal (coping better today) and would like to point out that those people living with cancer can also be episodal (in remission) yet are not denied access.

Furthermore, it seems that the way in which the eligibility criteria has been written for the NDIS will exclude many of those previously supported in the community. As a result their health will deteriorate causing additional suffering both to themselves and to those who care for them.

My concern is that much of the funding for community services for those with long term mental health issues has been transferred into the NDIS from organisations which used to support them.

As John Mendoza stated, on the 7.30 Report on the ABC 14/04/2015, that many millions of dollars were and are being siphoned off from mental health funding to fund other acute care programs.

He also stated that in 2012 there was a staggering 2352 recorded suicides in Australia which was more than the national road toll.

Mental illness is not a life style choice and needs to be placed on a higher priority level than it is now in the NDIS structure.