



Expression of Interest

For Membership of COPMI National Family Forum

The COPMI National Family Forum and its governing body Australian, Infant, Child, Adolescent & Family Mental Health Association (AICAFMHA pronounced “ay-kaf-ma”) is committed to participation of consumers, carers and young people in the COPMI initiative.

There will be many opportunities for consumers and carers to engage with the COPMI initiative. They may include but not be limited to the following:

- email-list
- Focus Groups
- National COPMI Family Forum
- Workshops
- Peer Reviewer for information and resources
- Peer Researcher
- Education and training of workers –work force development.
- Media and communication
- Newsletters or COPMI news items
- Focus groups for particular communities or interest groups e.g. rural consumers and carers, young carers

Roles will include but not be limited to the following:

- Provide a voice from a consumer, carer and young person’s perspective to inform the work of the COPMI initiative
- Identify strengths within the COPMI arena
- Identify those COPMI areas that need further work or work that needs to be initiated
- Be a conduit for receiving and sharing information through formal and informal networks and contacts

One of the participation avenues is the *COPMI National Family Forum (CNFF)* that will consist of a group of 8-10 people who will inform and advise the COPMI Team on consumer and carer perspectives.

Applicants for the CNFF will be selected from a diverse group of consumers, carers and young people so that as far as possible a variety of communities are included e.g. rural, city, single parent, male, female, culturally and linguistically diverse, indigenous.

Applicants must be from at least one of the following 4 categories.

1. Parent with a mental illness
2. Carer of a parent with a mental illness
3. Child (under 18 years) who has a parent with a mental illness
4. Carer of a child (under 18 years) who has a parent with a mental illness (e.g. grandparent carer, foster carer, sibling)

Applicants will need to have:

- Established organisational links for support
- Established networks of communication
- Experience in COPMI issues
- A desire and the time to be involved in the COPMI National Family Forum.

COPMI Family Forum members will meet face to face a maximum of twice a year and by teleconference as required, probably bimonthly.

If you would like to be considered for the COPMI National Family Forum please send your expression of interest to:

Chris Alliston
COPMI Consumer and Carer Participation Officer
COPMI National Office
Norwich Building, 77 King William Rd.
North Adelaide SA 5006
All enquiries to Ph: 08 83670888 Ext 30

Other participation opportunities (e.g. peer reviews) will be advertised at a later date through the COPMI Discussion email-list. If you are not already receiving COPMI Discussion list emails it's easy to join. Go to the COPMI website (www.copmi.net.au) and follow the links in the bottom left hand corner.

If you have difficulty accessing the web and would like to participate, please contact Chris Alliston. (Details above)