

A regular news brief on the recent activities of the team from the **Children Of Parents with a Mental Illness** national initiative.

## ☆ Department of Health and Ageing Funding

- ☆ AICAFMHA and the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing have entered into a new funding agreement for the COPMI national initiative that will cover the period from July 2010 to June 2012.
- ☆ During this phase, the COPMI national initiative will assist in promoting better mental health outcomes for children of parents with a mental illness by:
  - ☆ enhancing access to information and psycho-education for family members and carers (including children) where a parent experiences mental illness and enhancing access to information specifically for fathers
  - ☆ increasing access by primary mental health workers to skills training to enable them to provide psycho-education to families where a parent experiences depression and/or anxiety
  - ☆ providing specialist information and guidance (relating to children of parents with a mental illness) to organisations and agencies involved in the delivery of services to parents, children and to people who work with them, especially other agencies funded under the Council of Australian Governments New Early Intervention for Parents, Children and Young People measure
  - ☆ enhancing information exchange between researchers, service funders and providers regarding research and evaluation of illness prevention, mental health promotion and early intervention strategies and services for children of parents with a mental illness.
- ☆ An information sheet providing an overview of the work that is planned to be undertaken over the next two years is now available from the COPMI website at [http://www.copmi.net.au/about/aims\\_objectives.html](http://www.copmi.net.au/about/aims_objectives.html).

## ☆ COPMI Website

- ☆ In addition to the COPMI website's state-by-state listing of programs and services, the website now features separate listings for 'National Programs and Services', 'International Programs and Services' and 'Helplines'. [http://www.copmi.net.au/jsp/copmi\\_programs/maps/mapindex.jsp](http://www.copmi.net.au/jsp/copmi_programs/maps/mapindex.jsp).
- ☆ If your organisation has any programs, services or helplines that you would like included on the COPMI website, please complete an online form that can be found at [http://www.copmi.net.au/jsp/copmi\\_programs/copmi\\_programs\\_input.jsp](http://www.copmi.net.au/jsp/copmi_programs/copmi_programs_input.jsp) or go to the 'Programs, Services and Helplines' page and click the 'Online form' link.

## ☆ Research and Evaluation

- ☆ The COPMI website now has a new 'Evaluating Your Intervention' section that aims to help 'copmi' program planners and facilitators to understand what makes a good evaluation and to select and use an evaluation tool that suits their interventions. It is now available online at [http://www.copmi.net.au/ee/evaluate\\_interventions.html](http://www.copmi.net.au/ee/evaluate_interventions.html).

## ☆ Workforce Development

- ☆ During May-June 2010 a survey was conducted with the Carer Consultants, Consumer Consultants and Peer Educators who had completed *The Keeping Families and Children in Mind: COPMI Mental Health Worker Education Resource* **workforce educator online training**. The purpose of the survey was to gain feedback to enhance future training programs involving these educators and to assist the organisations who support them.
- ☆ The survey findings have been invaluable and have identified several items that could be implemented to improve the utilisation of the resource in the future. The final report is available on the 'Consumer and Carer Participation' page of the COPMI website ([http://www.copmi.net.au/cons\\_carer/index.html](http://www.copmi.net.au/cons_carer/index.html)).

## ☆ COPMI National Reference Group Survey

- ☆ Members of the COPMI National Reference Group (NRG) recently participated in a survey to gather feedback on the previous phase and to determine improvements in the functioning of the Reference Group for the 2010-2012 phase.
- ☆ The findings highlighted the majority of NRG members felt that they could contribute to all processes from the Terms of Reference during the July 2007 to April 2010 phase, COPMI staff (particularly the National Project Manager) provided efficient and helpful support during the July 2007 to April 2010 phase and several NRG members said that they or their organisation might be able to assist in supporting the proposed deliverables for the 2010-2012 phase in different ways and suggested individuals or agencies that could be invited to participate in the NRG for the 2010-2012 phase, based on the proposed deliverables. The feedback is currently being incorporated into the Reference Group's framework for the next phase of the initiative.

## ☆ Staffing

- ☆ Steps are now in place to recruit staff to fill the COPMI Consumer and Carer Participation Officer, the COPMI Workforce Development Officer and Project Support Officer positions that are currently vacant.