

Carer Representation Selection E-Bulletin

14th November 2011

Vision: To lead and influence policy change for a better system of support for families caring for people with a mental illness.

CONTINUING THE NEW SELECTION PROCESS FOR MENTAL HEALTH CARER REPRESENTATIVES

Carers ACT is seeking mental health carers to nominate as carer representatives to sit on ACT Government Committees & Subcommittees.

To nominate for a carer representative position, you must meet the criteria as follows:

Criteria:

- Be a current mental health carer, *i.e.* a carer who is currently caring for a family member or friend with mental illness, or a carer whose family member is no longer in their care for any reason (*due to death, change in living arrangements, moving, etc*) but who has been a current carer within the last 5 years;
- Agree to sign and abide by our Code of Conduct;
- Be prepared to meet all requirements for being a carer representative of the Mental Health Carers' Voice program, including reporting and feedback;
- Although not required, it is preferred that you are a current member of the Mental Health Carers' Voice program.

The following **attachments** will help with your nomination decisions:

1. The Mental Health Carers' Voice **Program Overview** to enable you to see where carer representation sits within the full scope of our systemic mental health advocacy program; the **Terms of Reference** for Mental Health Carers Representatives: what to expect and what supports available to you; A flowchart summary of the **Selection Process** for mental health carer representatives; our **Code of Conduct**; and a **Table of Committees and Subcommittees**, including the role and function of the committees, the frequency of meetings etc, so you can determine which committee best suits you.
2. A **Carer Representative Nomination Form** to be used to nominate for the committees and/or subcommittees you are interested in.
3. A **Membership Form** for the Mental Health Carers' Voice program.

Please note:

The Table of Committees and Subcommittees should be looked at closely so you can target your application to committees that suit your interests, skills and experience.

Conventions:

1. You may nominate for as many committees as you wish. However, it would be wise to list these nominations in order of priority for you as;
 - a. You will only be nominated for one committee.
2. All nominations will be assessed on merit against the committees' terms of reference by the Selection Panel, comprised of Kerry Dietrich, Mental Health Carer Member; Brooke McKail from the Mental Health Community Coalition; and a Carers ACT staff member with knowledge of the ACT mental health system.

Important Dates:

- Nominations must be received by the Mental Health Carers' Voice Officer by 12 noon on Wednesday 7th December, 2011;
- The Selection Panel will consider nominations in the week following this;
- Announcements will be made at a special Mental Health Carers Christmas Forum on 14th December (*venue and time to be advised*).
- Successful representatives will be informed by email/phone, and announced in the e-bulletin by Thursday 15th December, 2011.
- The two year term of office for new carer representatives will officially commence 1st January 2012.

To nominate, please fill in the Nomination Form and return it to Lydia by email: mhcarers@carersact.asn.au, or post: **Mental Health Carers' Voice Officer, Carers ACT, 80 Beaufort Crescent, Holt, ACT, 2615**. If you wish to nominate, but are unable to complete the form, or need any assistance, please contact Lydia on **6296 9900**.

**ANNOUNCING THE SELECTION PANEL
CARER MEMBER**

Congratulations to **Kerry Dietrich** as the successful nominee for the Carer Member of the Mental Health Carers' Voice Selection Panel, and to **Geoff Barr** as the Alternate Carer Member. Kerry & Geoff's nominations were selected by Brooke McKail, Mental Health Community Coalition, Dalane Drexler, Mental Health Consumer Network, and Dee McGrath, Carers ACT. A big thank-you to all those who nominated for these positions.