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EVALUATION OF NATIONAL PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT – Interview – Peak bodies

(1) What is this study about?

You are invited to take part in a research study to help us learn about people's experiences of mental health support programs that serve people who are not receiving NDIS funding. The programs are the National Psychosocial Support Measure (NPS-M) and the Continuity of Support (CoS) program. The purpose of the study is to understand users' experiences of these programs, to try to make them as helpful as possible for service users.

You have been invited to participate in this study because you represent a mental health consumer or carer peak body. This Participant Information Statement tells you about the research study. Knowing what is involved will help you decide if you want to take part in the study. Please read this sheet carefully and ask questions about anything that you don't understand or want to know more about.

Participation in this research study is voluntary.

By giving consent to take part in this study you are telling us that you:

- ✓ Understand what you have read.
- ✓ Agree to take part in the research study as outlined below.
- ✓ Agree to the use of your personal information as described.

You will be given a copy of this Participant Information Statement to keep.

(2) Who is running the study?

This study is being run by a team of researchers, some of whom have their own lived experience of mental health issues. The researchers are: Anne Honey, Nicola Hancock, Debra Hamilton and Jennifer Smith-Merry from the University of Sydney and Helen Glover from Enlightened Consulting. The team also includes research assistants employed by the

University of Sydney for this project. The study is funded by the Australian Department of Health.

(3) What will the study involve for me?

If you agree to be involved in this study, we will ask you to complete an interview with one of the research team to discuss your knowledge and opinions about NPS-M and/or CoS services. We will do the interview online, over the phone or in person, depending on your preference, and at a time that is convenient to you.

During the interview, we will ask you questions about your organisation's relationship with the programs, what feedback you have had from your members and how you think the programs could be improved.

Your interview will be audio-recorded to make sure we collect all of the information you give us. Once we have typed up and analysed the data, the recording will be deleted.

(4) How much of my time will the study take?

The interview will take between 15 and 45 minutes, depending on how much you want to tell us.

(5) Do I have to be in the study? Can I withdraw from the study once I've started?

Being in this study is completely voluntary and you do not have to take part. Your decision whether to participate will not affect your current or future relationship with your mental health service or the University of Sydney.

You are free to stop the interview at any time. Unless you say that you want us to keep them, any recordings will be erased and the information you have provided will not be included in the study results. You may also refuse to answer any questions that you do not wish to answer during the interview.

If later on, after the interview, you decide you do not want your interview to be used in the study, you can let us know by emailing anne.honey@sydney.edu.au. We can remove your data if you let us know prior to October 2020, when our evaluation report will be finalised

(6) Are there any risks or costs associated with being in the study?

Aside from giving up your time, we do not expect that there will be any risks or costs associated with taking part in this study.

(7) Are there any benefits associated with being in the study?

The study may benefit your organisation's members because the results will help service providers know how to improve their services. However, we cannot guarantee that you will get any direct benefits from being involved in the study.

(8) What will happen to information about me that is collected during the study?

Information will be stored securely. Only the research team will have access to the information you give us in the interview, except as required by law. No one from the mental health services will know what you say. Reports of this study will be provided to the Australian Department of Health and may be submitted for publication in one or more

journal articles and/or conference presentations. However, we will not use your name or any other detail that will let people know it is you.

(9) Can I tell other people about the study?

Yes, you are welcome to tell other people about the study.

(10) What if I would like further information about the study?

When you have read this information, the interviewer will be available to discuss it with you further and answer any questions you may have. If you would like to know more at any stage, please feel free to contact the chief investigator, Anne Honey, at The University of Sydney via phone ((02) 93519370) or email anne.honey@sydney.edu.au.

(11) Will I be told the results of the study?

If you would like to receive a summary of the findings after the study has finished, you can let us know by ticking the relevant box on the consent form.

(12) What if I have a complaint or any concerns about the study?

Research involving humans in Australia is reviewed by an independent group of people called a Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC). The ethical aspects of this study have been approved by the HREC of the University of Sydney [*Protocol #2020/266*]. As part of this process, we have agreed to carry out the study according to the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007)*. This statement has been developed to protect people who agree to take part in research studies.

If you are concerned about the way this study is being conducted or you wish to make a complaint to someone independent from the study, please contact the university using the details outlined below. Please quote the study title and protocol number.

The Manager, Ethics Administration, University of Sydney:

- **Telephone:** +61 2 8627 8176
- **Email:** human.ethics@sydney.edu.au
- **Fax:** +61 2 8627 8177 (Facsimile)

This information sheet is for you to keep