

NSW OLDER PEOPLE'S MENTAL HEALTH POLICY & PROGRAM CONTEXT

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Health

NSW Older People's Mental Health (OPMH) Program

- Part of NSW Mental Health Program
- Covers Specialist Mental Health Services for Older People (SMHSOP) community, non-acute and acute inpatient services and community residential services for older people with mental illness, as well as broader strategies & programs
- Two key statewide advisory groups provide advice on older people's health issues and services – the SMHSOP Advisory Group and OPMH Working Group



Health

NSW Older People's Mental Health (OPMH) Program

- **Significant program development under *NSW Service Plan for SMHSOP (2005-2015)*, focusing on development of community SMHSOP teams and community-based SMHSOP initiatives for older people with complex age-related mental health problems.**

Key relevant initiatives

- **Enhancement of SMHSOP community teams across NSW**
- **Training and capacity building initiatives with residential (& community) aged care providers & other key services for older people with MH problems**
- **Development of partnerships with residential aged care providers, in particular, in relation to the care of older people with BPSD, through the BASIS and DBMAS initiatives**



Health

Key relevant initiatives

- **Development of 2 pilot Special Care Programs for older people with severe behavioural and psychological symptoms associated with dementia and/or mental illness, involving partnerships between NSW Health SMHSOP clinical services and residential aged care providers**

Key relevant initiatives

- **A project to promote mental health and wellbeing in residential aged care**
- **Policy work to progress amendments to the Aged Care Assessment Program guidelines to address barriers for older people with mental illness in accessing assessment for (and therefore entry to) residential aged care.**
- **Work with ACS, MHCC and Beyondblue to promote collaborative work across the mental health and aged care sectors in relation to OPMH**



Health

Community care options for older people with mental illness

- **Need for community care packages & SMHSOP community team consultation/liaison for older people with mental illness supported by community aged care services identified in NSW mental health planning model**
- **SMHSOP Service Plan also identifies development of further rehabilitation & recovery programs & services for older people as a priority over next 4-5 yrs**

Community care options for older people with mental illness

- **Statewide OPMH Working Group taking up scoping and policy development work aimed at improving community care options for older people as a priority**
- **2 broad target groups identified:**
 - 1. Older people with significant mental illness but limited age-related functional difficulties, and**
 - 2. Older people with significant mental illness *and* significant age-related functional difficulties**

Some questions and ideas to explore

- Are the issues related to relevant program guidelines and policies (eg eligibility criteria)?
- Are the issues related to current practices (eg prioritisation)?
- Are the issues related to capacity, including partnerships and collaborative relationships in the concept of capacity?

Some questions and ideas to explore

Ideas

- **Training and capacity building initiatives**
- **Partnership development in community care for this group**
- **Assessment & prioritisation processes, and referral pathways**