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Communiqué 8

January - October 2017

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership in Mental Health (NATSILMH) issues Communiqués at regular intervals to update stakeholders working in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander social and emotional wellbeing, mental health and suicide prevention on its activities. For January - October 2017 the following update is provided.

1. NATSILMH meetings

NATSILMH have met on the following occasions over Jan - Oct 2017:

- 9th October (with the Australian mental health commissions)
- 20th September
- 21st August
- 28th June
- 14th June (with legal counsel)
- 10th May
- 1st February

2. New members

In September 2017, NATSILMH welcomed Professor Ngiare Brown, Commissioner with the National Mental Health Commission, as a new member.

3. Incorporation

NATSILMH has begun steps towards incorporating as a company limited by guarantee with charitable purpose registered in NSW and with the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC). This process is expected to be complete by November 2017. The NATSILMH Constitution (and other information) will be uploaded to the website as soon as it is approved by ASIC.

4. Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan and the *Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Declaration*

Further to previous Communiqués, NATSILMH are pleased to report that Action 12.3 of the Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan is that:

Governments will improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander access to, and experience with, mental health and wellbeing services in collaboration with ACCHSs and other service providers by.... recognising and promoting the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership and supporting implementation of the Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Declaration.

Further, that a NATSILMH-drafted Appendix is included in the Plan outlining the themes of the *Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Declaration*.

This is a significant achievement, particularly considering that the Declaration was only launched in August 2015.

See NATSILMH's Resources page for a link to the Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan.

5. Launch of the National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' Mental Health and Social and Emotional Wellbeing 2017 – 2013

NATSILMH welcomed the 10th of October launch of the above with a media release. NATSILMH had been involved at various stages in the development of the Framework.

See NATSILMH's Resources page for a link to the Framework.

6. Discussion Paper on the National Mental Health Commissions' National Emergent Leadership Program

NATSILMH commenced work on a Discussion Paper to inform Indigenous participation in, and content of, the National Mental Health Commissions' National Emergent Leadership Program in June 2017 and it was completed in August.

NATSILMH's aim is to ensure that the Program directly supports Indigenous people to take up leadership roles within the mental health sector; and also supports non-Indigenous leaders within the mental health sector to become supporters of Indigenous mental health leaders and to help improve Indigenous mental health outcomes.

Mr Tom Brideson is representing NATSILMH on the National Mental Health Commission's advisory group for the development of the Program.

7. IIMHL Indigenous Exchange, February 2017, Cairns

Over the 26 – 28 February 2017, NATSILMH members participated in the Cairns Indigenous Match of the International Initiative in Mental Health Leadership Exchange, with further participation in the Sydney part of the Exchange over the 2nd and 3rd of March. For further information, see the Resources page of the NATSILMH website.