

NSW Mental Health Workforce Plan



Health

Development of a Mental Health Workforce Plan is a recommendation of the Mental Health Commission of NSW's document, *Living Well, A Strategic Plan for Mental Health in NSW 2014-2024*. This is recognised as an essential reform activity to be carried out over 2016 and 2017.

Development of a Plan

In order to take a co-ordinated and integrated approach across all levels of government including in the areas of health, housing, employment, education and justice will be part of a co-design process.

Other national and local stakeholders with a role in the NSW mental health sector will be included where their input is important.

The mental health workforce comprises workers whose primary roles include early intervention, referral, treatment, care or support to people with a mental illness, in a mental health service or other health service environment, including community-managed mental health services. These workers include:

- Aboriginal mental health workers
- GPs
- mental health nurses
- occupational therapists
- peer workers
- psychologists
- psychiatrists
- social workers.

As per recommendation 8.1.1 from the Mental Health Commission's Living Well document, it is intended that the development of a NSW Mental Health Workforce Plan will include:

- peer workforce
- community-managed workforce
- Aboriginal mental health workforce
- training and workforce support for the mental health workforce including recovery-oriented practice and trauma-informed care
- training and workforce support for mainstream service providers and frontline workers, including to better support responses to crisis, including suicide.

The development of a NSW mental health workforce plan will support a professional mental health workforce for NSW in to the future.

