

A Guide to the Commissioning Framework for Mental Health and Addiction 2015

Submission to the Ministry of Health

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Contact

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About the New Zealand Nurses Organisation

NZNO is the leading professional nursing association and union for nurses in Aotearoa New Zealand. NZNO represents over 46,000 nurses, midwives, students, kaimahi hauora and health workers on professional and employment related matters. NZNO is affiliated to the International Council of Nurses and the New Zealand Council of Trade Unions.

NZNO promotes and advocates for professional excellence in nursing by providing leadership, research and education to inspire and progress the profession of nursing. NZNO represents members on employment and industrial matters and negotiates collective employment agreements.

NZNO embraces te Tiriti o Waitangi and contributes to the improvement of the health status and outcomes of all peoples of Aotearoa New Zealand through influencing health, employment and social policy development enabling quality nursing care provision. NZNO's vision is *Freed to care, Proud to nurse.*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The New Zealand Nurses Organisation (NZNO) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Ministry of Health's a Guide to the Commissioning Framework (the framework) for Mental Health and Addiction 2015.
2. NZNO has consulted its members and staff in the preparation of this submission, in particular members of the Mental Health Nurses Sections, Te Rūnanga o Aotearoa and professional nursing and policy advisers.
3. We support the intent of the framework principles to ensure a successful model of care for mental health underpinned by equity of

outcomes, particularly for Māori and Pacific people who have the greatest burdenⁱⁱⁱ.

4. While holistic models such as person centred and whānau ora approaches have been used, the framework has missed addressing the needs of dependent or vulnerable children who should be at the centre of these models.
5. As indigenous health professionals, Te Rūnanga draws attention to Article 24.2 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which states that '*Indigenous individuals have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. States shall take the necessary steps with a view to achieving progressively the full realisation of this right*ⁱⁱⁱ.
6. We wish to raise the following concerns:
 - the needs of the children whose parents are affected by mental health and addictions;
 - member's specific feedback; and
 - specific points of clarification.
7. Please note our previous submissions on the Ministry of Health Mental Health and Addiction Service Development Plan^{iv}

DISCUSSION

The needs of the children whose parents are affected by mental health and addictions

8. While the framework makes numerous references to having a person-centred approach, and building on the strengths of and meeting the expectations of individuals/families/whānau/wider Aotearoa New Zealand population, it fails to recognise that consumers of such

services are often parents of infants or children who are also vulnerable.

9. We strongly support any model of care that promotes services or responses that are culturally and clinically competent.
10. As health advocates, we see this as an opportunity for practitioners to 'speak up' for the rights and interests of children to be formally protected and given more consideration when services for clients with mental health and addition conditions are being commissioned.
11. We are concerned that the needs of dependent and vulnerable children are not given fair consideration alongside the needs of the 'client' and therefore strongly recommends that the needs of this group are acknowledged and prioritised when services are commissioned for the "client".
12. We agree that people with lived experience of mental health and /or addiction should be apart of the design, development and evaluation of the impact and effectiveness of this model.
13. It is neither appropriate nor just that children should be further disadvantaged by their parent's conditions or treatment options by having their own basic needs met as part of parent's treatment.
Members have stated:

- *a client needs to be acknowledged for their role as a parent and their treatment helps them to fulfil this role; and*
- *I think that there needs to be a voice for children when such services are planned/commissioned, so that their needs are visible in the first instance and able to be represented.*

Member's specific feedback

14. Members specific feedback includes:

- *'framework was helpful to address the responsibility for mental health extending across all sectors and government departments'*
- *'I found the recognition of the needs of different developmental stages as part of decision making useful'*
- *'The processes, as outlined, are appropriate e.g. transparent funding decisions aligned with population need, integrated responses'*
- *'Acknowledgement of the legislative and quality processes underpinning the health and disability system is really helpful'*
- *'Alliance agreements are potentially a positive step in improving relationships between services'*
- *'The components of a successful model of care for mental health and addiction are appropriate'*
- *Funding models – agree with the examples provided and that the model needs to fit the service requirements*

Specific points of clarification

15. Our members have asked for clarification in these areas:

- *Do the principles for service configuration includes the prioritisation of community resources and does this mean it will be prioritised above secondary and tertiary services or prioritisation within the community?*
- *In the section on procurement and contracting commitments, there is a statement about not discriminating against suppliers whether domestic or international. Given the recent issues with the Serco correctional service provider I would not like to see a replica of this in the New Zealand health system especially with vulnerable mental health and addiction clients. When identifying a mental health and addiction service provider how do you ensure*

that they are competent to work with vulnerable mental health and addiction clients in New Zealand. How do you ensure that the company is culturally competent to work with indigenous people?

- *This report itself does acknowledge the cyclical nature of mental health and addiction. Given the cyclical nature of mental health and addiction services, we are concerned about who and how decisions are made about which services are non functional to decommission?*
- *The use of cost-utility analysis to make decisions around treatment funding can result in diminished individual choice if used in a quantitative manner, please outline how this process would work.*

CONCLUSION

In conclusion NZNO recommends that you:

- **Note our support** for the intent of the framework;
- **Note our concerns** with the needs of the children whose parents are affected by mental health and addictions;
- **Note our strong recommendation** that the needs of children of mental health clients be considered when services are commissioned;
- **Address our members'** specific concerns with regard to clarifying: the prioritisation of community services; ensuring cultural competency; the decision making processes for decommissioning services and determining treatment funding; and
- **Note we welcome** the opportunity to have further involvement in the review process.

Nāku noa, nā



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REFERENCES

ⁱ Baxter, J.(2008). *Māori Mental Health Needs Profile. Summary. A Review of the Evidence.* Palmerston North: Te Rau Matatini.

ⁱⁱ Ministry of Health. (2012). *Rising to the Challenge: The Mental Health and Addiction Service Development Plan 2012–2017.* Wellington: Ministry of Health.

ⁱⁱⁱ United Nations. (2008) Declaration on the rights of the Indigenous Peoples. Accessed on 29/10/15 http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS_en.pdf

^{iv} NZNO. (2012) Mental Health and Addiction Service Development Plan submission. Accessed on NZNO website 29/10/15.

[http://www.nzno.org.nz/Portals/0/Files/Documents/Activities/Submissions/2012-11%20Mental%20health%20and%20Addiction%20Service%20Development%20PI an,%20%20NZNO%20FINAL.pdf](http://www.nzno.org.nz/Portals/0/Files/Documents/Activities/Submissions/2012-11%20Mental%20health%20and%20Addiction%20Service%20Development%20Plan,%20%20NZNO%20FINAL.pdf).