PRIVATE MENTAL HEALTH ALLIANCE (PMHA)

REPORT OF THE INAUGURAL (1ST) PMHA MEETING

HELD ON FRIDAY, 20 APRIL 2007 AT RANZCP 309 LA TROBE STREET MELBOURNE VICTORIA

Glossary of Acronyms and Terms used in this Report

ACHS	Australian Council on Health care Standards
ACSQHC	Australian Council on Safety and Quality in Health Care
AG	Australian Government
AHIA	Australian Health Insurance Association
AHMAC	Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council
AMA	Australian Medical Association
APHA	Australian Private Hospitals Association
CDMS	PMHA–Centralised Data Management Service
CPoC	Consumer Perceptions of Care Project
DoHA	Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing
HCP	Hospital Casemix Protocol
Health Fund(s)	Private Health Insurance Fund(s) that pay benefits for psychiatric care
Hospital(s)	Private Hospital(s) with psychiatric beds
HSMdb	Hospitals Standardised Measures database application of the CDMS
MHSC	Mental Health Standing Committee of the AHMAC Health Priorities Principal Committee
MHISS	Mental Health Information Strategy Sub-committee of the MHSC
N_N	National Network of Private Psychiatric Sector Consumers and Carers
Network	Private Mental Health Consumer Carer Network (previously N_N)
PHI	DoHA Private Health Insurance Branch
PMHA	Private Mental Health Alliance
PMHA–CDMS MC	PMHA–CDMS Management Committee
RANZCP	The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists
SPGPPS	Strategic Planning Group for Private Psychiatric Services
SQPWG	Safety and Quality Partnership Working Group of the MHSC

1. OPENING AND WELCOME

The Independent Chair of the Private Mental Health Alliance (PMHA), Mr Phillip Plummer (the Chair), opened the Inaugural Meeting of the PMHA (the Meeting) at 9:30 AM on Friday, 20 April 2007. The Meeting was held at the Headquarters of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) in Melbourne, and the following representatives were in attendance.

1.	Mr Philip Plummer	Independent Chair
2.	Ms Janne McMahon	Consumer Representative
3.	Ms Ruth Carson	Carer Representative
4.	Mr Harry Lovelock	RANZCP (proxy for Dr Jo Lammersma and Ms Sharon Brownie)
5.	Dr Martin Nothling	AMA
6.	Dr Bill Pring	AMA
7.	Ms Moira Munro	APHA (representing all participating Hospitals)
8.	Ms Carole Turnbull	APHA (representing all participating Hospitals)
9.	Ms Helen Eriksson	AHIA (representing all participating Health Funds)
10.	Ms Deborah Stephenson	AHIA (representing all participating Health Funds)
11.	Mr Gerald Tankey	DoHA PHI Branch (proxy for Mr Peter Callanan)
12.	Mr Allen Morris–Yates	CDMS Director
13.	Phillip Taylor	PMHA Director (Secretary)

1.1 Apologies

The following apologies were noted.

1.	Dr Jo Lammersma	Honorary Secretary RANZCP
2.	Ms Sharon Brownie	Chief Executive Officer RANZCP
3.	Ms Suzy Saw	DoHA Mental Health Reform Branch
4.	Mr Peter Callanan	DoHA Private Health Insurance Branch

The PMHA Director, Mr Phillip Taylor (the Secretary), reported that DoHA had advised that Ms Suzy Saw had been internally reassigned within DoHA and would be succeeded on PMHA by an appropriate representative from the Mental Health Reform Branch.

The Chair then acknowledged the work of the Strategic Planning Group for Private Psychiatric Services (SPGPPS) and its restructure into PMHA effective 1 January 2007 until 30 June 2008. It was noted that the Chair is currently working through a schedule of meetings with the PMHA Member Organisations (AMA, RANZCP, APHA, AHIA, and DoHA) to gain their individual perspectives on PMHA, its Centralised Data Management Service (CDMS) and the Private Mental Mealth Consumer Carer Network (the Network).

2. SPGPPS FINAL MEETING REPORT

Resolved *(Ms Munro/Ms McMahon)*

That the PMHA adopts the Report of the Final (46th) Strategic Planning Group for Private Psychiatric Services Meeting, held on 1 December 2006 in Melbourne, as a true and accurate record of proceedings and requests that the Report be made available on the PMHA website.

Action: PMHA Director

3. PROGRESS REPORT ON ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE FINAL SPGPPS MEETING

The Meeting noted and updated the following table of progress on actions arising from the final meeting of the SPGPPS.

AGENDA ITEMS Final (46TH) SPGPPS MEETING		ACTION OFFICER (S)	STATUS
	Report on the 46th SPGPPS Meeting		
➢	Draft and circulate Report of 46th SPGPPS Meeting for comment	Secretariat	Done
➢	Revise Report based on comments received and prepare final	PMHA Director	Done
➢	Agenda Item 1st PMHA Meeting	PMHA Director	Done
1.2	Report on the 45th SPGPPS Meeting		
➢	Post Report on the SPGPPS website @ spgpps.com.au	Secretariat	Done
2.1	SPGPPS Finance Committee (FC)		
➢	SPGPPS FC Mtg in 2007 to finalise SPGPPS financial affairs	SPGPPS—FC	Done
➢	Agenda Item 1st PMHA Meeting	PMHA Director	Done
2.2	CDMS Management Committee Report		
➢	Agenda Item 1st PMHA Meeting	PMHA Director	Done
3.1	Guidelines for Determining Benefits		
➢	Forward Guidelines review to Private Industry Branch DoHA	PMHA Director	Done
3.2	National Network Report		
➢	Healthy Food, Health Minds Cookbook order form on SPGPPS website	Secretariat	Done
➢	Circulate order form pdf for Healthy Food, Healthy Mind to stakeholders	Secretariat	Done
➢	Agenda Item 1st PMHA Meeting	PMHA Director	Done
3.4	AHMAC National Mental Health Working Group Report		
➢	Agenda Item 1st PMHA Meeting	PMHA Director	Done
4.5	Australian Government		
➢	Forward names Individuals/organizations to include NSMHS review	SPGPPS	Done
5	Next Meeting		
➢	Organise 1st PMHA Meeting for 20 April 2007 @ RANZCP in Melbourne	Secretariat	Done
➢	Prepare and circulate Agenda and Papers for 1st PMHA Meeting	PMHA Director	Done

The Secretary reported that there were no outstanding matters that were not included under appropriate agenda items for this Meeting.

4. SPGPPS FINANCE COMMITTEE FINAL MEETING REPORT

The Chair of the SPGPPS Finance Committee, Dr Martin Nothling, reported that this Committee held its final (13^{th}) meeting via teleconference on 13 March 2007 to finalise the financial affairs of the SPGPPS its CDMS, and N_N for 2006.

PMHA noted that, on the recommendation of the Finance Committee, the Parties to the *AMA Agreement for Services 2004–2006*, had directed that the small surpluses remaining in the SPGPPS's CDMS ($45) and N_N ($537) budgets at the end of 2006 be

carried forward into the 2007 budgets for the PMHA's CDMS and the Network respectively.

The Meeting then agreed on the membership for a PMHA Finance Committee.

Resolved *(Ms McMahon/Ms Munro)*

1. *That the PMHA adopts the Report of the 12th Strategic Planning Group for Private Psychiatric Services Finance Committee Meeting, held via teleconference on 14 November 2006.*

2. *That the PMHA adopts the Report of the Final (13th) Meeting of the Strategic Planning Group for Private Psychiatric Services Finance Committee, held via teleconference on 13 March 2007.*

3. *That the PMHA notes that the Parties to the AMA Agreement for Services 2004–2006 have endorsed the small surpluses for 2006 of $45 remaining in the SPGPPS's Centralised Data Management Service (CDMS) budget, and $537 remaining in the National Network of Private Psychiatric Sector Consumers and Carers budget, being carried forward respectively into the 2007 budgets for the PMHA's CDMS and the Private Mental Health Consumer and Carer Network.*

Action: PMHA Director

4. *That the PMHA appoints the following representatives to the PMHA Finance Committee.*

1. Dr Martin Nothling (Chair)	*AMA*
2. Dr Mirco Kabat	*RANZCP*
3. Ms Helen Eriksson	*AHIA*
4. To be advised	*DoHA*
5. Ms Carole Turnbull	*APHA*
6. Ms Janne McMahon	*Network Chair*
7. Mr Howard Pickrell	*AMA Corporate Services*
8. Mr Allen Morris–Yates	*CDMS Director*
9. Mr Phillip Taylor (Secretary)	*PMHA Director*

5. *That the PMHA requests that meetings of the PMHA Finance Committee be held for each quarter in 2007 in accordance with the following schedule.*

First Quarter	*Second Quarter*	*Third Quarter*
1 January–31 March	*1 April–30 June*	*1 July–30 September*
First PMHA–FC	*Second PMHA–FC*	*Third PMHA–FC*
Tuesday 5 June 2007	*Tuesday, 4 September 2007*	*Tuesday, 13 November 2007*
6:00 PM Teleconference	*6:00 PM Teleconference*	*6:00 PM Teleconference*

Action: PMHA Director

5. SPGPPS–CDMS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FINAL MEETING REPORT

The Chair of the SPGPPS–CDMS Management Committee, Dr Bill Pring, reported that this Committee held its final meeting on 30 November 2006 in Melbourne.

Resolved (Ms Stephenson/Ms Turnbull)

That the PMHA adopts the Report of the Fourth and Final Meeting of the Strategic Planning Group for Private Psychiatric Services, Centralised Data Management Service, Management Committee, held on 30 November 2006 in Melbourne.

6. PMHA–CDMS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE INAUGURAL MEETING REPORT

The Inaugural PMHA–CDMS Management Committee meeting was held on 19 April 2007 back–to–back with this meeting of the PMHA. Dr Pring provided the following report on matters considered at that meeting.

6.1 Hospital Casemix Protocol (HCP)

There are still difficulties for Hospitals associated with the implementation of new arrangements for the HCP and the reporting of outreach care. The matter has been referred to the APHA Psychiatric Sub-committee.

6.2 CDMS Reports

The move to electronic provision of CDMS Standard Quarterly Reports for Hospitals and Health Funds is completed. The CDMS Data Warehouse will be re-built later this year to better handle the ever increasing volume of data it contains. This should also provide a stable and secure platform for the re–development of the CDMS Reports and Services well into the future. Toward the end of 2007, PMHA stakeholders will need to determine what they might want from the PMHA–CDMS beyond June 30 2008.

6.3 Consumer Perceptions of Care (CPoC) Pilot Study

The CPoC Pilot Study is nearing completion and the following reports are being prepared by the CDMS Director.

a) A draft aggregate report for private hospitals for consideration by the APHA Psychiatry Sub–committee.

b) A draft aggregate report for Queensland Health.

c) A report for the Australian Government. It is anticipated that this will be the report for released to the public domain, albeit at the discretion of the Australian Government.

6.4 Mental Health Information Strategy Sub–Committee (MHISS)

MHISS provides expert technical advice and recommendations on initiatives to address the information requirements of the National Mental Health Strategy for the MHSC. Ms Moira Munro currently represents the private sector on the MHISS. Current issues for the private sector arising from the 12/13 April 2007 MHISS meeting include the following.

a) National Intervention Codes for Mental Health. Only one of these codes will be implemented and included in the 2008 publication of the *Australian Classification of Health Interventions* (ACHI). The other codes will be taken back for further review as they have proven to be unworkable at trial.

b) Australian Commission for Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC). ACSQHC is in the early stages of its national efforts to improve the safety and

quality of health care provision in Australia. A private sector representative, Ms Christine Gee, is a Commissioner on the ACSQHC.

c) MHISS Chair. There is a possibility that the MHISS Chair, Dr Aaron Groves (Director Mental Health Queensland), will be replaced by someone who does not share Dr Groove's very strong understanding and regard for the private sector.

6.5 Mental Health Safety and Quality Partnership Working Group (SQPWG)

SQPWG focuses on safety and quality in mental health care and reports to the MHSC. Dr Pring currently represents the private sector on the SQWG. Current issues arising from the work of the SQPWG relevant to the private sector, include the following.

a) Review of the National Standards for Mental Health Services. This review is being undertaken for the Australian Government by the Australian Council on Healthcare Standard in a three–stage process. A Steering Committee for the review has been formed and includes the Chair SQPWG, Dr Peggy Brown, the Chair of the Network, Ms Janne McMahon, and Ms Christine Gee representing the APHA. The review needs to be finalised by June 2008. It is anticipated, that the PMHA will be consulted toward the end of this year as part of Stage 2 of the review.

b) Safety Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Development. To date, work has focussed primarily on seclusion and restraint, with some limited work on suicide and deliberate self–harm. No work has yet been undertaken on indicators for safe transport or adverse medication events.

*c) Seclusion and Restraint***.** As part of a national effort to reduce the use of seclusion and restraint, SQPWG has agreed to the definition of seclusion, which incorporates the essence of the definitions from various jurisdictional definitions, amongst other sources. A similar process will be used to settle an agreed definition for *restraint*. MHISS will be asked to permit the Safety Indicator Drafting Group of its Performance Monitoring Sub-committee to assist in the development of KPIs for monitoring the use of seclusion and restraint and undertake specific work relating to seclusion and restraint practices utilised within Hospital Emergency Departments.

PMHA noted that the National Mental Health Consumer Carer Forum will produce a report on seclusion and restraint and will work in conjunction with SQPWG on this issue. Mrs Ruth Carson represents the Network on the Forum and is the Forum's Co-chair. Mrs Carson reported that the Forum is concerned that, frequently, seclusion and restraint occurs as a consequence of the treatment people receive at the hands of police and ambulance officers. The other dimension is forensic, whereby people in prisons suffering from mental illness are subject to the use of seclusion and restraint because their behaviour is interpreted as requiring correction and control, rather than treatment.

Mr Harry Lovelock reported that the RANZCP is currently negotiating with DoHA around the development of guidelines to manage the acutely agitated young, adult and aged people across a range of settings, including Accident and Emergency Departments and in the community. Mr Lovelock will seek the opinion and advice of the PMHA on this work when appropriate.

*d) Safe Transportation Subgroup***.** This group is developing Safe Transport Principles, which are now with jurisdictions for broader consultation at the local level. Feedback from this process will be incorporated and reconsidered by the SQPWG at its meeting to be held on 20 July 2007. Dr Pring has requested that *timeliness of transfer* be included as part of this process, as it is a major issue for private hospitals.

*e) Reducing Adverse Medication Events***.** The Reducing Adverse Medication Events Working Group will hold its first meeting on 24 April 2007. Dr Pring will participate in that meeting.

In response to a question, Ms Munro reported that there are strict reporting requirements in each jurisdiction for serious adverse events. Lesser adverse events that constitute a risk to the patient are dealt with under internal risk management reporting arrangements. Proper risk management is an accreditation requirement of the ACHS. Ms Munro reported that most Hospitals are using a package called *Risk Man* for their management of risk. Ms Munro and Ms Turnbull offered to provide a presentation to the next meeting of the PMHA on *Risk Man*.

PMHA noted that consumers and carers are represented on the SQPWG. Mrs Carson identified that the burden of the impact on carers when distressful adverse events occur to the people they are caring for is neglected, at present, in both the public and private sectors.

f) Reducing Suicide Risk and Deliberate Self Harm in Mental Health Services. Work to date has focussed on suicide and has involved collating information from across jurisdictions on risk assessment tools and on risk data. An Australian Bureau of Statistics paper on data quality issues is pending and this report will be examined to inform the work of the SQPWG.

Dr Martin Nothling mentioned that there is currently no overall Australian standard for suicide or suicide risk assessment protocols. A current court case was discussed that highlighted the need for a specific private sector protocol.

6.6 CDMS Accommodation Charge

The relocation of the PMHA–CDMS to the offices of the CDMS Director in Adelaide has raised the issue of how the previous budget allocation, levied by the AMA for CDMS office space at the offices of the Federal AMA in Canberra, is to be managed. The AMA charge for this office space would have been $3,750 in this financial year and $7,500 in the next financial year. The CDMS Director requested that this funding be reallocated for use on other relevant CDMS infrastucture support related expenses. Examples of the types of expenditure envisaged could include rental of off–site storage, additional telephone lines, and replacement of faulty or outdated equipment, etc.

Hospitals agreed to the re–allocation of this funding. Health Fund and Government representatives were asked to advise the PMHA Director within two weeks of their respective positions on this matter.

Resolved (Ms Stephenson/Ms Turnbull)

1. *That the PMHA notes the report provided by Dr Bill Pring on the Inaugural Meeting of the PMHA Centralised Data Management Service (CDMS) Management Committee (PMHA–CDMS MC), held on 19 April 2007 in Melbourne.*

2. *That the PMHA requests that its Health Fund and Australian Government representatives advise PMHA Director within the next two weeks as to whether the allocated budget accommodation charge for the PMHA Centralised Data Management Service (CDMS) of $3,750 in this financial year, and $7,500 in the next financial year, can be utilised at the discretion of the CDMS Director for other relevant CDMS infrastucture support related expenses, now that the CDMS is no longer located at the offices of the Federal AMA in Canberra.*

Action: Health Funds/Australian Government

3. *That the PMHA appoints the following representatives to the PMHA-CDMS MC.*

1. Dr Bill Pring (Chair)	*Clinicians*
2. Mrs Ruth Carson	*Carers*
3. Ms Janne McMahon	*Consumers*
4. Ms Moira Munro	*Hospitals*
5. Mr Peter Callanan	*DoHA*
6. Ms Deborah Stephenson	*Health Funds*
7. Mr Allen Morris–Yates	*CDMS Director*
8. Mr Phillip Taylor (Secretary)	*PMHA Director*

4. *That the PMHA requests that meetings of the PMHA–CDMS MC be held back–to–back with meetings of the PMHA for the remainder of 2007 in accordance with the following schedule.*

Second PMHA–CDMS MC Meeting	*Third PMHA–CDMS MC Meeting*
3:00 PM to 6:00 PM	*3:00 PM to 6:00 PM*
Thursday, 5 July 2007	*Thursday, 25 October 2007*
RANZCP Headquarters	*RANZCP Headquarters*
309 La Trobe Street	*309 La Trobe Street*
Melbourne	*Melbourne*

Action: PMHA Director

7. AMA AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES 2007–2008

The Secretary reported that on 31 December 2006, the *AMA Agreement for Services 2004–2006* between the AMA, RANZCP, DoHA, APHA, AHIA and beyondblue (the Parties), which had supported the activities of the SPGPPS, its CDMS and the $N_{N,}$ expired. Since July 2006, the AMA has convened seven meetings of the Parties (All Parties Group) to determine the future of the SPGPPS, its CDMS and the N_N. The outcome of those negotiations resulted in the restructure of the SPGPPS into PMHA from 1 January 2007 until 30 June 2008 under a new *AMA Agreement for Services 2007–2008*. This Agreement incorporates Operating Guidelines and Work Plans for PMHA and PMHA–CDMS. The Agreement has now been signed by all Parties and copies circulated to each Party, together with an invoice for each their respective contribution toward PMHA, PMHA–CDMS and the Network. To date, the AMA has received payments from AMA, RANZCP, DoHA and beyondblue.

The PMHA noted copies of the minutes of the 5th, 6th and 7th All Parties Group meetings, which had been circulated with the agenda and papers for this meeting, together with a copy of the new AMA Agreement.

The Meeting noted that the voting rights recorded in the *Background Agenda Paper* to this Agenda Item were incorrect and accorded two votes to the AMA and two votes to the RANZCP. The Secretary explained that this was a typographical error and drew the Meeting's attention to the voting rights that were correctly recorded in the Operating Guidelines as follows.

16 VOTING AND DECISIONS

16.1 Questions arising at a meeting of the PMHA, or of any Sub-Committee appointed by the PMHA, shall be determined by a majority of the votes of voting representative members of the PMHA or Sub-Committee present at the meeting. The voting entitlements are as follows.

16.1.1 Consumers will have one representative and one vote.

16.1.2 Carers will have one representative and one vote.

16.1.3 The RANZCP will have one voting representative with one vote and one non-voting representative.

16.1.4 The AMA will have one voting representative with one vote and one non-voting representative.

16.1.5 The AHIA will have two representatives each with one vote.

16.1.6 The APHA will have two representatives each with one vote.

16.1.7 The Australian Government will have two representatives each with one vote.

16.2 Each voting representative member present at a meeting of the PMHA, or of any Sub-Committee appointed by the PMHA, is entitled to one vote but, in the event of an equality of votes on any question, the person presiding over the meeting may exercise a second or casting vote.

The Secretary then reported on the following developments that had occurred in accordance with the restructure of SPGPPS into PMHA. Where necessary, the PMHA determined any further actions that needed to be taken in relation to each of these developments.

7.1 SPGPPS Secretariat Closure

The AMA officially closed the SPGPPS Secretariat in Canberra on 31 December 2006 and successfully relocated the CDMS from Canberra to Adelaide.

7.2 SPGPPS, CDMS N_N Final Report 2006

A final report on the 2006 activities of the SPGPPS, its CDMS and the N_N is currently being prepared for circulation to the PMHA for out–of–session correction, amendment and clearance. The audit of the SPGPPS, CDMS and N_N accounts will then be conducted and the letters of acquittal prepared. Copies of the final report will then be forwarded to the Parties to the *AMA Agreement for Services 2004–2006*.

7.3 PMHA Independent Chair

PMHA Member organisations (AMA, APHA, AHIA, DoHA and RANZCP) appointed Mr Phillip Plummer as the Independent Chair of the PMHA.

7.4 PMHA Director

The AMA appointed Mr Phillip Taylor as Director for PMHA located in an office on the 4th Floor of the Federal AMA Headquarters in Canberra.

7.5 PMHA–CDMS Director

The AMA appointed Mr Allen Morris–Yates as Director for the PMHA–CDMS located in Adelaide. Mr Morris–Yates is now responsible for the provision of Hospitals and Health Funds Standard Quarterly Reports in electronic format.

7.6 Private Mental Health Consumer Carer Network (the Network)

In accordance with Clause 2.3 of the new *AMA Agreement for Services 2007–2008*, the Chair of the Network, Ms Janne McMahon, has assumed many of responsibilities previously undertaken by the SPGPPS Secretariat from her home–office in Adelaide.

Clause 2.3 also directs that …*appropriate support be provided by the PMHA Director*. In agreeing to this arrangement, the All Parties Group left the determination of what constituted *appropriate support* to this Meeting.

The new arrangements were discussed with Ms McMahon and the PMHA Director.

The Meeting acknowledged that while the new arrangements gave the Network a much greater sense of independence, there were a range of difficulties related to infrastructure support that needed to be addressed.

Resolved (unanimous)

That the PMHA directs that the PMHA Director provide the following support services for the Private Mental Health Consumer Carer Network (the Network).

1. *Supervise financial support for the Network and arrange for the AMA to establish a cash fund in Adelaide of $2,000, from the Network budget, for the Network Chair to access and control for the day–to–day costs associated with Network activities.*

2. *Print and distribute a hard copy of the agenda and papers for meetings of the Network in consultation with the Network Chair.*

3. *Maintain the database of Network members contact details at the offices of the Federal AMA in Canberra and, in consultation with the Network Chair, distribute bulk postal and electronic mailings as required from that database.*

4. *Maintain the Network sub-website on the PMHA website in consultation with the Network Chair.*

5. *When required, provide advice on the agenda and papers, minutes and follow–up actions for Network meetings, and on the Network submissions and discussion papers.*

6. *Ensure that Network Members make their travel and accommodation arrangements directly with the AMA Travel Service.*

Action: PMHA Director

7.7 PMHA Website

The domain name pmha.com.au has been registered.

The revision of the SPGPPS website to a PMHA website is underway to enable the PMHA and CDMS Directors to manage the site. The PMHA Director will be responsible for the PMHA and Network sub–websites and the CDMS Director will be responsible for the CDMS sub–website.

7.8 Organisational Logos

Organisational logos for the PMHA its CDMS and the Network have been developed for consideration by this Meeting.

Resolved (unanimous)

1. *That the PMHA adopts the following organisational logo and requests that PMHA Member organisations be listed on all hard copy and electronic letterhead that the logo accompanies, and on the PMHA website.*

PMHA | PRIVATE MENTAL HEALTH ALLIANCE

2. *That the PMHA adopts the following organisational logo for the PMHA–CDMS, albeit in the same solid colour as the PMHA logo.*

PMHA CDMS | THE CENTRALISED DATA MANAGEMENT SERVICE of the PRIVATE MENTAL HEALTH ALLIANCE

3. *That the PMHA requests that the Private Mental Health Consumer Carer Network advise the PMHA Director as to which of the following designs it prefers to use as its organisational logo.*

Action: Network Chair

7.9 PMHA Operating Guidelines and Work Plan

The PMHA Operating Guidelines and Work Plan were carefully considered by the Meeting. The following resolutions were passed to enable the activities detailed in the Work Plan to be progressed.

Resolved (unanimous)

1. *That the PMHA accepts the nomination of, and duly appoints, Ms Moira Munro as PMHA Deputy Chair unopposed.*

2. *That the PMHA appoints the PMHA Deputy Chair, Ms Moira Munro, as the agreed PMHA Delegate to represent the PMHA at meetings the PMHA Independent Chair is unable to attend.*

3. *That the PMHA appoints the PMHA Director, Mr Phillip Taylor, as the alternate PMHA Delegate for those occasions where the PMHA Independent Chair and the PMHA Deputy Chair, are unable to attend meetings representing the PMHA.*

4. *That the PMHA appoints the following representatives to the PMHA Guidelines Review Working Group (GRWG) to undertake the review the Guidelines for Determining Benefits for Health Insurance Purposes for Private Hospital Based Mental Health Care (Guidelines).*

1. Dr Bill Pring (Chair)	*Clinicians*
2. Mr Peter Callanan	*DoHA*
3. Ms Janne McMahon	*Consumers*
4. Ms Moira Munro	*Hospitals*
5. Ms Deb Stephenson	*Health Funds*
6. Mr Phillip Taylor (Secretary)	*PMHA Director*

Action: PMHA Director

5. *That the PMHA requests that, as part of the review of the Guidelines, the GRWG take the following recommendations into consideration that arose from the 2006 Guidelines review.*

   a) *In relation to all admitted patients (overnight, same day and outreach), the AMA, RANZCP should work together with Health Funds to develop an education process concerning the responsibilities of psychiatrists in relation to ongoing clinical review and assessment during such episodes of care. Consideration needs to be given to inclusion of verification from the treating psychiatrists on the Psychiatric Certificate that a person admitted to overnight hospital–based psychiatric care, was not suitable for a less restrictive level of care.*

   b) *Developments in relation to any further guidelines that may be produced on Electroconvulsive Therapy.*

   c) *New documents that may need to be included in the Guidelines Reference List, particularly anything that may arise from COAG, Broader Health Cover and the review of the National Standards for Mental Health Services.*

Action: GRWG

6. *That the PMHA requests that the CDMS Director provide a one hour presentation to the next meeting of the PMHA on the current reports provided by the CDMS, as a first step toward the PMHA review of these reports.*

Action: CDMS Director

7. *That the PMHA requests that the PMHA Director arrange a meeting between the All Parties Group and the PMHA in November 2007. To reduce costs, this meeting should be held at AMA House in Canberra.*

Action: PMHA Director

8. *That the PMHA adopts the Priorities and Work Plan detailed under section 6 of the PMHA Operating Guidelines January 2007.*

8. PRIVATE MENTAL HEALTH CONSUMER CARER NETWORK (NETWORK) REPORT

The PMHA noted the report of the 14th Meeting of the Network held on 26/27 February 2007 in Melbourne. The Chair of the Network, Ms Janne McMahon, spoke to the following issues.

8.1 Medibank Private Trial

Ms Sue Bradshaw has briefed the Network on the Medibank Private trial conducted as part of their Better Health Program, and the services being provided by McKesson Asia-Pacific as part of that trial. The Network was impressed by the materials and services provided by McKesson and have given their guarded support to the Program. PMHA noted the concerns of the AMA, RANZCP and Hospitals with regard to the approach taken by McKesson. The AMA and RANZCP are currently negotiating with McKesson to address these concerns. Health Funds indicated that the intent of the Program is to be a supplement to current service provision, not a substitute. The AMA and RANZCP felt that the current situation could have been avoided if Mckesson had approached the SPGPPS/PMHA in the first instance as a source of reference and advice.

8.2 Indentifying the Carer Project

DoHA and the AMA have agreed to conduct an Identifying the Carer Project (ICP) with funding from DoHA. There have, however, been some delays with the negotiations over the draft agreement provided by DoHA to the AMA in January 2007. In the absence of their Legal Counsel, the AMA has now engaged Ms Jane Ferry, from DLA Philips Fox to advise the AMA on the agreement. To date, DoHA has allowed ICP to proceed and borne the associated costs until such time as the agreement is in place. DoHA does not wish to see the ICP stalled or hampered as a result of delays in the agreement negotiations. The Meeting noted that Ms McMahon is the Project Manager, Mrs Judy Hardy is the Project Officer, and Mrs Ruth Carson is the Project Assistant. ICP workshops are scheduled to be conducted in Adelaide, Brisbane, and Perth. Consultations with other jurisdictions will be via teleconference. ICP is scheduled to be completed by August 2007.

8.3 Network Work Plan 2007

The 2007 Work Plan for the Network has been completed. Under the work plan, the following promotional fund raising type activities are being progressed.

a) Publication of a book of recipes prepared by Mark Longton, Executive Chef of the Perth Clinic titled, *Healthy Food Healthy Mind*. Sales of this publication are going well (approximately $9,000) and all proceeds from the sale of the book will be donated to the Network. RANZCP offered to promote the cook book at the RANZCP National Congress in May 2007.

b) The manuscript, *To Dance Across the Heavens*, prepared by Ms Alvina Hill, the Network State Coordinator for New South Wales, is scheduled for publication in August 2007.

c) The notion of an internet–based promotional web page to advertise such activity and publications, linked to the PMHA website, is also being explored.

The Network feels strongly that these promotional and fund raising activites are important, given that current funding only enables the Network to meet twice a year. There is no funding provision to enable the Network representatives to attend any other important meetings and conferences. These activites, however, have raised

difficulties for the AMA and its insurers. Essentially, because the AMA is the incorporated body for the Network it is ultimately responsibile for the publication of all Network material. While it is highly unlikely that publication of such material would result in a claim against the AMA, the AMA insurers advice has indicated that it is not in the best interest of the Association to take on this sort of exposure, either directly or indirectly. The insurers have further advised that, if the AMA is to be involved with such publications, then the AMA would need to seek an extension of its current insurances to cover the publication of such material generally. The AMA is currently investigating their position further in relation to c) above.

The Network has also responded to the discussion paper of the Australian Council on Safety and Quality in Health Care.

Resolved (Dr Pring/Mr Lovelock)

That the PMHA adopts the Report of the 14th Meeting of the National Network of Private Psychiatric Sector Consumers and Carers, held on 26/27 February 2007 in Melbourne.

9. MENTAL HEALTH STANDING COMMITTEE (MHSC) REPORT

The Secretary reported he had attended the MHSC held in Melbourne on Friday, 16 February 2007, in the absence of a PMHA Chair and at the request of the All Parties Group. A copy of the draft report of the MHSC meeting was noted. The Secretary reported that much of the meeting had been devoted to discussions of alignment of the COAG National Action Plan on Mental Health 2006–2011 and the Review of the National Mental Health Plan 2003–2008.

9.1 National Mental Health Policy Revision Steering Committee

The Secretary also attended the first meeting of the National Mental Health Policy Revision Steering Committee, which was held in Melbourne on Tuesday, 27 March 2007.

The Steering Committee has been established by the MHSC to revise the existing National Mental Health Policy. The Committee will be convened for a period of no more than 12 months and meet face–to–face a minimum of two times in the course of the revision. Specifically, the Committee has been asked to undertake the following.

1. Revise the existing National Mental Health Policy to align it with the policy objectives and areas of funding identified by the COAG *National Action Plan on Mental Health 2006–2011*.
2. Update all sections of the National Mental Health Policy that may be out of date or inconsistent with current policy and practice.
3. Provide a draft revised Policy for consideration by the MHSC by no later than the end of August 2007.

The process for revision will include the following.

1. A one–day Drafting Group Workshop, to be held on in Brisbane on Monday, 23 April 2007.
2. A Drafting Group Teleconference to be held on Tuesday, 19 June 2007.

   The draft revised Policy will be circulated to Steering Committee for consideration as soon as possible after this Teleconference.

3. A one–day Steering Committee meeting to be held in Melbourne on Tuesday, 10 July 2007, to consider the draft revised Policy.A half–day Drafting Group meeting to be held in Brisbane on Tuesday, 31 July 2007.

4. The final draft revised Policy circulated out–of–session as soon as possible after the Drafting Group meeting to members for final comment and endorsement to the MHSC.

Resolved (Ms Munro /Dr Pring)

1. *That the PMHA adopts the Report of the Mental Health Standing Committee held on Friday, 16 February 2007 in Melbourne.*

2. *That the PMHA requests that the PMHA Deputy Chair, Ms Moira Munro, in the absence of the PMHA Independent Chair, attend the next meeting of the Mental Health Standing Committee to be held on Friday, 18 May 2007 in Melbourne.*

3. *That the PMHA requests the Mental Health Standing Committee (MHSC) clarify the status of minutes of MHSC meetings and determine whether they can be circulated to the PMHA, on the provisio that they are for the information of the PMHA only and not for circulation or citation.*

Action: PMHA Deputy Chair

10. OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS)

Hospitals are experiencing problems with the ACHS related to a draft discussion paper that was developed last year on *hanging points* within facilities. The discussion paper was not circulated to SPGPPS/PMHA, or to APHA. It was also not accepted or agreed by the ACHS Board, however, ACHS surveyors started using it in Accreditation Surveys. Four hospitals received recommendations from ACHS based on the discussion paper. The discussion paper appeared to relate more specifically to the forensic unit, rather than the private hospital-based voluntary patient setting. The APHA Board and APHA President have written to the ACHS expressing concerns over two issues.

a) The discussion paper focuses on *hanging* as the risk to be aware of, rather than focusing on the risk of suicide in mental health facilities.

b) The lack of private sector involvement in the discussions that led to the development of the discussion paper.

The ACHS have responded by withdrawing the discussion paper and producing another on the risk of suicide, which has not been provided to the APHA.

Resolved (unanimous)

That the PMHA requests that the PMHA Chair write to the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards indicating that the discussion paper on evaluating the risks of suicide be referred to the PMHA, the Network and to the APHA for consideration and comment.

Action: PMHA Chair

10.2 Psychiatrist Training

Mr Harry Lovelock reported that the RANZCP is working on a proposal with DoHA for a scoping project to examine expansion of training settings, including the private hospital setting.

Ms McMahon raised the issue of overseas trained psychiatrists who do not speak English well. Mr Lovelock indicated that the RANZCP has been funded to provide an online program to help orientate overseas trained psychiatrists when the come to Australia. RANZCP also conducts workshops for overseas trained psychiatrists who are trainees of the RANZCP Fellowship Program where some of these issues are discussed. It is an area that requires a further resourcing, however the Australian Government is not prepared to provide any further funding at present.

10.2Promoting the PMHA

Mr Lovelock raised the issue of promoting the establishment PMHA and the important role of the private sector in the delivery of mental health services in Australia.

Resolved (unanimous)

1. *That the PMHA requests that generic text be prepared promoting the establishment of the PMHA that can be easily used by each PMHA Member Organisation in their respective media campaigns to promote the PMHA and the role of the private sector in the delivery of mental health services.*

Action: PMHA Director/Mr Lovelock

2. *That the PMHA requests Dr Bill Pring and Mr Allen Morris–Yates prepare a material for inclusion in the RANZCP Journal on the PMHA–CDMS.*

Action: CDMS Director /Dr Pring

3. *That the PMHA requests that Members forward to the PMHA Chair any material that might assist in promoting the PMHA in the forums attended by the Chair.*

Action: PMHA Members

11. NEXT MEETING AND CLOSE

The PMHA considered the PMHA meeting dates for 2007 proposed by the former SPGPPS, noting that these had been set to avoid conflicts with other meetings of PMHA stakeholder groups.

Resolved (unanimous)

That the PMHA adopts the following schedule for face–to–face meetings of the PMHA for the remainder of 2007.

Second PMHA Meeting
9:30 AM to 3:00 PM
Friday, 6 July 2007
RANZCP Headquarters
309 La Trobe Street
Melbourne

Third PMHA Meeting
9:30 AM to 3:00 PM
Friday, 26 October 2007
RANZCP Headquarters
309 La Trobe Street
Melbourne

Action: PMHA Director

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 3:00 PM.

Mr Philip Plummer
Independent Chair

Mr Phillip Taylor
Secretary