

LIKE MINDS, LIKE MINE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FUND PROVIDERS SELECTED

PRESS RELEASE

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Sixteen community projects have been selected from a pool of applications to receive up to \$100,000 per year for three years from the Health Promotion Agency's (HPA's) new Like Minds, Like Mine Community Partnership Fund.

HPA's Manager Mental Health, Virginia MacEwan says: "The 16 selected projects for the Like Minds, Like Mine programme represent a range of ways of working with communities around New Zealand to reduce stigma and discrimination and increase social inclusion for people with experience of mental illness. They build on the platform that has been established by dedicated providers over the last decade."

Historically, the Like Minds, Like Mine programme was delivered by the Ministry of Health and has been in operation since 1997. In May this year after a feedback process with existing Like Minds, Like Mine regional providers and other stakeholders a refreshed *Like Minds, Like Mine National Plan 2014 - 2019* was launched.

The new National Plan sets the guiding principles for the programme, with reinvigorated leadership and flexible community activity. It is more specific than past plans in prioritising people who are most likely to be socially excluded from workplaces, services and community settings, targeting the issues and audiences that will have the greatest impact on reducing stigma and discrimination and increasing social inclusion. The refreshed plan also saw a partnership between HPA as the single lead operational agency and the Ministry of Health retaining strategic responsibility

As a result of the refresh, existing regional providers were advised earlier this year by the Ministry of Health that their Ministry of Health contracts would end on 31 December 2014. All regional providers were eligible to apply for the Community Partnership Fund.

Projects selected under the Community Partnership Fund are aligned with the National Plan and will be delivered by community providers. All of the applications to the Fund were reviewed by an experienced panel. HPA is currently working with the successful applicants to finalise their projects. The successful projects will be announced by February 2015.

Q&As

Will services for those seeking help with mental illness be lost if existing providers are not successful in their applications for the Community Partnership Fund funding?

No, Like Minds, Like Mine did not fund services. The purpose of the Like Minds, Like Mine programme is to influence the general public who have the power to exclude people with experience of mental illness. The Like Minds, Like Mine programme does not provide clinical or peer support services for people experiencing mental illness.

Why was the National Plan for Like Minds, Like Mine changed?

The previous *Like Minds, Like Mine National Plan 2007-2013* expired on 30 June 2013. *Rising to the Challenge: The Mental Health and Addiction Service Development Plan 2012–2017* states that the Ministry of Health will continue national efforts to reduce stigma, including continuing and refreshing the Like Minds, Like Mine programme.

Who was involved in the refreshing of the National Plan?

The Ministry of Health and HPA jointly prepared the National Plan based on feedback undertaken by the Ministry of Health in 2013. The feedback process consisted of:

- group and individual interviews with key stakeholders
- an online survey
- a scan of the literature
- an expert panel review of the above elements and advice on future direction.

Information gathered through this process shows broad agreement that after 16 years the Like Minds, Like Mine programme needed to evolve by learning from the past and responding to the current environment.

What is the aim of the Community Partnership Fund?

The Community Partnership Fund supports collaborative community projects that work towards changing social structures, cultures and policies so that social inclusion is more likely for people who are most excluded. The groups of people who are more likely than others to be excluded are Māori, Pacific Peoples and young people (aged 17 to 24) with mental illness and people with severe mental illness. The Fund is *not* designed to provide direct services to people with experience of mental illness. The Fund is managed by HPA.

For further information or comment contact HPA Corporate Communications Manager, Lynne Walsh on 021 369 081.