



## **Psychiatric Disability Services of Victoria (VICSERV) Inc. VICSERV Statewide Networks**

As a key part of our role in providing a framework for Psychiatric Disability Support Sector development, VICSERV auspices a number of networks for the sector.

- VICSERV Mutual Support/Self-Help Network
- VICSERV Co-ordinators Network
- VICSERV CEO Network
- VICSERV Quarterly Information Network
- Victorian Women & Mental Health Network

Each of the Networks has a specific function, style and approach to issues.

VICSERV values each network highly as a source of policy advice and information.

The following pages provide a description of the role and function of each of the Networks.

Please take a look to see if any of your networks are designed to support you.

### **Mutual Support/Self Help Groups Network**

#### **What's it about?**

The VICSERV Mutual Support/Self-help Groups Network provides the opportunity for program managers and staff throughout the psychiatric disability support sector who work in Mutual Support/Self-help programs, to come together every three months, to:

- Share information and ideas
- Discuss service delivery issues affecting their services
- Provide peer support
- Provide information and feedback to VICSERV on service issues which may affect policy
- Hear from VICSERV on developing policy issues, which may affect them

VICSERV values this network highly as a source of policy advice, as it brings people together who have both a practical understanding of service delivery issues at ground level, as well as an understanding of policy issues. This is an inclusive network that welcomes discussion, debate and thinking on issues relevant to PDRS service provision.

Many of the policy issues that VICSERV takes up relating to service practice stem from this network.

**Who is it for?**

This network is primarily for program managers and staff of Mutual Support/Self-Help programs. Others are welcome to attend the meetings.

**When and where is it?**

The Mutual Support/Self-help Groups Network meets bi-monthly from 10.00am – 12.00pm at Anxiety Recovery Centre, 42 High Street Rd., Ashwood. Please refer to the VICSERV web site for further details.

**How do issues get raised?**

Ideally, if you have an issue which you would like raised, you should call the current convenor of the network, Anne Wicking at The Compassionate Friend on (03) 9899 4944, two weeks prior to the meeting. However, if this is not possible, issues can simply be raised in general business at the network meeting.

**Do I RSVP?**

Yes. If you are a mutual support/self-help program, please let us know whether you will attend or not. RSVP Anne at The Compassionate Friend on 9899 4944.

**For more information**

Contact Susan Pepper (03) 9482 7111 at VICSERV

**VICSERV Co-ordinators Network****What's it about?**

The VICSERV Co-ordinators network provides the opportunity for program managers, co-ordinators, team leaders and/or senior key workers throughout the psychiatric disability rehabilitation and support sector to come together monthly to:

- Share information and ideas;
- Discuss practical delivery issues affecting their services;
- Promote service and systems development ideas and issues;
- Provide peer support; and
- Provide information and feedback to VICSERV on policy and practice issues.

VICSERV values this network highly as a source of policy advice, as it brings people together who have both a practical understanding of service delivery issues at ground level, as well as an understanding of policy issues. This is an inclusive network, which welcomes discussion, debate and thinking on issues relevant to PDRS service provision.

This network identifies many of the service practice/policy issues that VICSERV takes up.

**Who is it for?**

This network is primarily made up of program managers, co-ordinators, team leaders and/or senior key workers of psychiatric disability rehabilitation support services. Others are welcome to attend the meetings.

**When is it?**

The Co-ordinators Network is held monthly, on the second Thursday of the month from 10.00am – 12.30pm with lunch provided. Please refer to the VICSERV web site for further details.

**Where is it?**

The meeting is generally held at VICSERV, 370 St Georges Rd North Fitzroy.

**How do issues get raised?**

Ideally, if you have an issue which you would like raised, you should call the current Convenor of the network, Cheryl McDonald at Western Region Health Centre on 8379 9400 or email: [cherylm@wrhc.com.au](mailto:cherylm@wrhc.com.au) OR John Dunton at VICSERV (03) 9482 7111 or email [johndunton@vicserv.org.au](mailto:johndunton@vicserv.org.au).

However, if this is not possible, issues can simply be raised in general business at the network meeting or through an email mailing list.

**Convenor:** the group elects a Convenor each year.

**Do I RSVP?**

Yes. If you are a Co-ordinator, Manager, Team Leader and/or Supervisor. RSVP John Dunton at VICSERV (03) 9482 7111

**Further Information**

Call John (03) 9482 7111 or E-Mail: [johndunton@vicserv.org.au](mailto:johndunton@vicserv.org.au)

**CEO Network****What's it about?**

The VICSERV CEO network provides the opportunity for CEO's of organisations with responsibility for PDRS services, to come together every two months, to:

- Share information and ideas;
- Discuss policy issues affecting their organisations;
- Discuss issues which affect the strategic focus of their organisations;
- Provide peer support; and
- Exchange information with VICSERV on policy and practice issues.

This network is highly useful to CEO's in supporting them to maintain peer networks, and discuss issues of common concern to organisations that run PDRS services.

**Who is it for?**

This network is for CEO's who have an overall responsibility for funded PDRS Services/programs.

**Where is it?**

VICSERV, 370 St Georges Rd North Fitzroy.

### **How do issues get raised?**

Ideally, if you have an issue, which you would like, raised, you should call the current convenor of the network, Michael Cassar at VICSERV at 2 weeks prior to the meeting. However, if this is not possible, issues can simply be raised in general business at the network meeting.

### **Do I RSVP?**

Yes. If you are a CEO on our mailing list and are informed of meetings, please advise us each meeting whether you will attend or not.

RSVP Bill at VICSERV, Phone: (03) 9482 7111 or E-Mail: [vicserv@vicserv.org.au](mailto:vicserv@vicserv.org.au)

### **For more information.**

Please contact Convenor Michael Cassar, at VICSERV, on 9482 7111

## **Quarterly Information Network**

### **What's it about?**

The VICSERV Quarterly Information Network provides the opportunity for all PDRS staff including program managers, co-ordinators, team leaders, key workers and/or support staff throughout the psychiatric disability rehabilitation and support sector to come together quarterly, to:

- Share information and ideas;
- Discuss policy issues affecting their services;
- Discuss practical delivery issues affecting their services;
- Promote service and systems development ideas and issues;
- Participate in professional development activities relevant to their role in the PDRS sector.

### **When is it?**

The Quarterly Information Network meeting is held four times a year from 10.00am – 1.00/2.00pm, with lunch provided.

In 2005, VICSERV hosted 3 regional and 1 metropolitan PDRS Quarterly Information Network events. Next year, we hope to offer these events outside of Melbourne.

### **How do issues or professional development topics get raised?**

Ideally, if you have an issue which you would like raised or a professional development session organised, you should call John Dunton at VICSERV on (03) 9482 7111.

Recently, a range of professional development sessions have been successfully conducted covering Submission & Report Writing, Supervision and Working with Groups in addition to Forums on Day Programs, Intensive Home Based Outreach and Ethics.

## **Do I RSVP?**

Yes, RSVP John at VICSERV Phone: (03) 9482 7111 or E-Mail: johndunton@vicserv.org.au

## **For more information.**

Call John Dunton at VICSERV (03) 9482 7111 or email johndunton@vicserv.org.au

## **Victorian Women & Mental Health Network**

### **Network Aims & Objectives:**

- Unite women around mental health issues;
- Provide the opportunity for consumers and workers to share experiences and information
- Support women in the provision of women sensitive services;
- Promote opportunities for training and education in women's issues and women sensitive practice;
- Lobby for change in order to make policy and services more responsive to women;
- Advocate on behalf of disempowered women within the psychiatric system;

### **Membership:**

Membership is open to ALL WOMEN including staff of mental health services, consumers of mental health services, and any other women in the community with an interest in women and mental health issues.

### **Meetings:**

Planning meetings are held monthly on the first Tuesday of each month from 9.30am - 11.30am. Open Meetings are also organised with guest speakers on a quarterly basis. Interested women are most welcome to attend.

Meetings are generally held at VICSERV, 370 St Georges Road, North Fitzroy (Melways map 30 C10) but sometimes rotate to other member organisations women interested in attending an upcoming meeting are advised to check the venue with Heather or Kim (contact details below).

### **Further Information**

- Heather Clarke at (03) 94971768. Email [heather.clarke@austin.org.au](mailto:heather.clarke@austin.org.au)
- Kim Waugh at (03) 96929549 (work). Email [kim@prahran.mission.org.au](mailto:kim@prahran.mission.org.au)

VICSERV is accessible by public transport

- **Tram** No. 112 West Preston tram (Stop No. 25),
- **Train** - Epping Train Line, Merri Station, walk down Clarke Street to St Georges Road, turn left onto St Georges Road and VICSERV is about 300 meters on the left hand side
- **Bus** – 506 bus Moonee Ponds to Westgarth Bus (getting off at St Georges Road).