Thematic Analysis of Focus Groups With Consumers and Carers of Mental Illness
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About This Dataset

Data Source Citation


Full title of originating dataset

Focus Group Research for *beyondblue* With Consumers and Carers

Data author(s) and affiliations

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First publication date

2011

Funding sources/suppliers

*beyondblue*; UNSW Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) number: 10333.

Sample/sampling procedures

Consumers and carers were primarily recruited from *beyondblue*’s national consumer and carer reference group, blueVoices, living in the local area of the eight study sites. blueVoices is a virtual network that
provides advocacy opportunities for consumers and carers, encouraging people with depression and their carers to share their experiences (“The Way Forward 2005–2010”). It was specifically set up as part of a goal for developing electronic forms of consumer and carer self-management (Strategic Framework for Action 2005–2010). To supplement recruitment, especially for people from the Indigenous and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) communities, local mental health services and organizations were asked to recruit potential participants. This is an arms-length approach consistent with ethics protocol to minimize perceived coercion to participate. Administrative staff from beyondblue not involved in the project were responsible for recruitment, to help reduce selection bias. After initial interest was expressed by potential participants through blueVoices, a brief phone call was made to identify and exclude people with additional presentations of psychotic disorders (e.g. schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, etc.), to help increase homogeneity and therefore sample representativeness. The total sample size was 61. A Recruitment Flyer was used to help recruit participants.

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**Data collection dates**

November–December 2010

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**Time frame of analysis**

January–February 2011

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**Unit of analysis**

Consumers’ and carers’ needs and experiences

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**Location covered by data**

Melbourne, Bendigo, Hobart, Burnie, Sydney, Tamworth, Adelaide and Mount Gambier, Australia

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**List of variables**

Four broad themes explored: (1) community awareness, (2) stigma, (3) social and economic impacts and (4) treatment needs.