MEDIA RELEASE

Consumers key to the Partnerships in Wellbeing Awards 2012

The Australian College of Mental Health Nurses (ACMHN) and pharmaceutical company Lilly have awarded ROAM Communities Clubhouse Project the major Partnerships in Wellbeing Award for 2012.

These unique awards recognise and support innovative programs that assist people living with a mental illness to optimise their lifestyles and improve their quality of life. The awards are designed to support programs that have not attracted significant funding from other sources and are a departure from core business.

ROAM Communities, established in 2005, is a not-for-profit mental health nursing charity dedicated to helping people recover social and emotional wellbeing in the community, avoiding hospitals and homelessness. The Clubhouse project started in July 2012 and provides consumers the opportunity to meet friends and engage in vocational education and employment groups through participation in a variety of psychosocial activities.

ACMHN CEO Adjunct Associate Professor Kim Ryan said the Partnership in Wellbeing Awards recognises partnership between mental health professionals and consumers and carers. “These programs highlight the importance of including consumers in their recovery. These are programs developed with consumers, rather than for them”, Ms Ryan said.

The minor Partnerships in Wellbeing Awards for 2012 went to Books on Prescription: Word for Wellbeing (Broome WA), the Art Therapy Group (Coffs Harbour NSW), Free Voice – Speak Out (Albury NSW) and Hearing Voices Group, Toowoomba (QLD).

The awards were presented at the 38th International Mental Health Nursing Conference being held in Darwin this week. Around 440 Mental Health Nurses and others working in mental health are attending the conference, which is an opportunity for participants to stay up to date on trends in clinical practice, research, education and explore the changing scope of mental health nursing.

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