

Prompt Questions for Advanced Statements of Preferences

Advanced Statements can be an excellent location to contain a short record of the previous treatment experiences of consumers, and their wishes for future treatment, as well as key information about how they communicate.

Prompt questions can be used like....

Support Persons

- Is there a particular person you would like us to speak to now? Or someone you would nominate as a preferred person for us to call if you become more unwell

My Communication Needs

- How do you prefer to communicate?
- Do you have any trouble with vision or hearing and what helps you with that?
- Have you ever used a communication board or communication cards? Have these been helpful for you?
- Do you use text to speech apps? Which ones and are these useful?
- Does anything help you explain what you do and don't want? (thumbs up or thumbs down)
- Do you like information provided in a written form? Dot points?
- Would you benefit from information presented in an audio format (ie podcasts that provide information about diagnosis)?

My Mental Health

- Have you been diagnosed with any mental health issues before? What were these?
- What are the hard things in life?
- If you have been diagnosed with a mental illness can you tell me what that was?
- How have your previous experiences of Mental Health care been?
- Have you been treated as a voluntary consumer before? (include prompts such as seeing a counsellor, psychologist, psychiatrist or GP about mental health)
- Have you been treated as a compulsory client before?
- Have you had treatment in a mental health inpatient unit before? How has this been for you? (or how do you anticipate this might be like?)

My Treatment Preferences and Why

- Have you had any side effects of medication that have been awful in the past? Do you know what the name of the medication/s were? (Side effects might include weight gain, depression, sexual dysfunction, insomnia, hypersomnia, emotional disconnection or numbing, tremors, mania, increased thirst, lactation etc)

- If you were to become unwell again would you want that medication again if your treating team thought it would help?
- Have you had ECT in the past? Did you find it helpful? If so, how?
- What wasn't helpful? Or what was the worst part? If you were to need compulsory treatment in the future what would you think if ECT was recommended?

Care and Support Information

- What kind of important decisions have you made in life? (allow time and space for this to be anything at all, including what to have for dinner that night) How have you made these decision.
- How do you make decisions? (Give examples, some people need time, others need to be supported to 'talk it out')
- Have you connected with a peer support worker before? Would you like to do this if you become unwell?
- Do you have any idea of anything that helps you soothe and regulate (give examples like weighted blankets, particular music, sounds, television shows, sensory items, smells, games, memories)?
- Do you have any dietary requirements? (Diabetes, gluten free, lactose free etc)
- What are your favorite topics to talk about?
- Do you have any past experiences of trauma? Is there anything about that you think would be important for us to know if you were to become unwell and need compulsory treatment? (ie preferred gender of caring staff, don't assume female consumers will prefer female staff, or males will prefer male staff) ?
- If you did need to go to hospital do you have any responsibilities at home that you would need help to organize or manage- like pets, children, elderly parents, gardens?
- What about your work... how would your work need to be informed if you were going to be absent for a little while? And who would you like to do this?

THESE QUESTIONS CAN TELL YOU MORE INFORMATION ABOUT A PERSONS GOALS, RELEVANT TO SIDE EFFECTS AND CONSEQUENCES OF MANDATORY TREATMENT AS WELL SETTING RECOVERY ORIENTATED GOALS. THEY ARE WORTH HAVING A CONVERSATION ABOUT BEFORE FILLING OUT THIS DOCUMENT, AS THEY MAY HELP WITH PROMPT QUESTIONS.

- Have you studied before? Or what would you like to study?
- Have you worked before? Where?