

Media release

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Mind Recovery College wins National Disability Award

Mind Australia was announced last night as the winner of the Excellence in Choice and Control in Service Delivery category of the 2015 National Disability Awards for its Recovery College initiative.

Presented by Alan Tudge, Assistant Minister for Social Services, this award recognises excellence in disability support services from across the country.

The award recognises the highly innovative ways in which Mind has developed its Recovery College initiative. The organisation developed its Recovery College model as a new way of involving people with mental ill-health in the co-design and co-delivery of courses and workshops to share what works for them and to learn what other people with similar experiences have found useful. Gerry Naughtin, Chief Executive of Mind said, “Choice and control is a central principle of the National Disability Insurance Scheme and in this award, Mind is being recognised as a leading provider of services based on choice and control”.

Mind was the only mental health provider represented amongst the finalists across all categories of the Awards.

Mind has been supporting people with significant mental health issues for 40 years and is one of the largest providers of community-based mental health support services in Australia.

At Mind Recovery College, participants are learners (students) or teachers, not patients or clients. People with a lived experience of mental ill-health are involved in the design and delivery of courses and are active in the running of the college.

Dr Naughtin expressed the uniqueness of the Mind Recovery College, saying, “The College provides participants the opportunity to learn from others who have walked their own journey of recovery. Through the development of courses, we’ve exposed the Mind community to the concept of co-production, and the feedback from and participation of students has been extremely positive. The winning of this award is an important validation of our commitment to the rights and respect people living with mental health-related challenges deserve.”

Further information is available on the Mind Recovery College website <http://recoverycollege.org.au/>

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