

*Valuing, respecting and utilising people's mental health experiences  
Ka wāriu ka whakaute a ka whakapau e ngā wheako mate a hinengaro o ngā tangata*

**kites**



## Diagnosis in Psychiatry Workshop

*July 2012*

This one day workshop, held in July 2012, provided an opportunity for a range of diverse stakeholders in mental health to join with others to discuss and consider the various perspectives on this important topic. The idea for this workshop was conceived by Robert Miller, a neuroscientist and writer who has personal experience of mental health issues and a diagnosis of schizophrenia. Administrative support for the diagnosis workshop was provided by Kites Trust.

The workshop was attended by a wide range of mental health professionals, people with lived experience of mental health issues, family/whānau members, researchers and those concerned with legal aspects of psychiatry.

Professor Allen Francis, Professor Emeritus of psychiatry at Duke University, North Carolina, USA and former chair of the revisions committee for DSM-IV was the keynote speaker.

Some of the topics Professor Allen Francis spoke about in his speech included problems arising from the use of the DSM-IV, some alarming trends around the increasing numbers of children being diagnosed with mental health issues, the rise of advertising in the pharmaceutical industry and the huge expenditure on pharmaceutical companies as opposed to research in mental health.

Perspectives around diagnosis were given by Robert Miller, consumers and family/whānau from the Wairarapa Like Minds, Like Mine team and professionals working in the mental health sector including a District Inspector, lawyer and a psychiatrist.

The workshop incorporated a variety of presentations including individual testimonials, panel discussions and plenty of question and answer time, providing a unique opportunity for dialogue among a range of stakeholders in the mental health sector, who seldom get to have such an opportunity to speak freely and frankly in an open forum.

To read more about the Diagnosis workshop, see photographs, and engage in further dialogue, read Eileen's blog ["Conversation about Diagnoses: Help or Hindrance"](#) For full written reports on the workshop see [Robert Millers' website](#).