

Queensland Mental Health and Drug Advisory Council Meeting

12 May 2014 Brisbane, Australia

Meeting Communique

The Queensland Mental Health and Drug Advisory Council convened their second meeting in Brisbane on Monday, 12 May 2014.

The meeting primarily focused on the whole-of-government strategic plan for mental health, drug and alcohol reform (the plan) and providing input in relation to the proposed principles, outcomes and directions identified in the draft plan.

The plan's vision was endorsed by the Council at its first meeting in April 2014. The endorsed vision was that Queensland be:

'A healthy and inclusive community where people living with mental illness or problems with substance use have a life with purpose and access to quality care and support focused on wellness and recovery in an understanding, empathic and compassionate society'.

The Council considered the following elements of the draft plan:

- the **principles** which underpin the strategic plan and set a clear framework to guide planning, implementation and evaluation of the plan
- the **outcomes** which will be used to determine if the strategic plan makes a positive impact on the lives of people living with mental illness or problems with substance use. These are drawn from national work over the last two years, building on existing data where possible.
- the **pillars of reform** on which the plan has been developed – better services; better awareness, prevention and early intervention; better collaboration and engagement; and better transparency and accountability
- the **commitments to action** which identify initial priorities based on consultation themes and evidence about the incidence and severity of mental illness and problems with substance use in Queensland.

Council members shared the Commissioner's view that there is a significant reform agenda that must commence with doing a few things well. The commitments identify these starting points.

A large part of the day was dedicated to discussing the proposed actions under the plan with Council members providing their thoughts on those elements they consider essential to the plan's success in achieving the vision and outcomes.

Key points of discussion included a need for greater emphasis on:

- Addressing stigma and discrimination, including the role of the media
- The importance of addressing human rights
- Respect and appreciation for both the expertise and the experience of consumers, families and carers
- Fostering a culture to encourage innovative solutions, managing rather than avoiding risks
- The importance of cross sectoral work, including the arts, sport and recreation in the public, private and community sectors
- Appreciating the need to include substance misuse on the mental health agenda without making it invisible
- The importance of understanding the proposed principles inform everything we do.

The Council supported the directions proposed in the draft plan, subject to Council members' individual comments which will be provided to the Commission by 23 May 2014.

Council members Jan Kealton, Kingsley Bedwell and Mitchell Giles were nominated to work out-of-session with the Commission to finalise the plan.

Achieving the vision

Council members participated in a workshop led by external facilitators to consider how they can work together as an effective team to achieve our shared vision.

Priorities will be finalised at the next meeting.

Next Council meeting

The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for 21 July 2014.