

Shared Commitment 5: Integrated and effective government responses

Shared Commitment 5 seeks to achieve:

- *more people living with mental health difficulties or issues related to substance use, including those with exceptionally complex problems, are able to access quality services in the community and as close to home as is safe*
- *more accessible and responsive public services to meet the needs of all customers, including those with mental health difficulties or issues related to substance use*
- *better engagement, capacity and accountability across government service areas to improve mental health and wellbeing.*

Actions

Mental Health Demonstration Project

The Mental Health Demonstration Project is a project testing a collaborative prevention and early intervention housing, health and welfare service delivery model to address gaps in the service system for social housing tenants who experience mental issues or illness or related complex needs and whose behaviours may jeopardise their tenancies.

The Department of Housing and Public Works is partnered with Queensland Health and other agencies to implement the Mental Health Demonstration Project in the Chermside and Fortitude Valley Housing Service Centre catchment areas.

By 30 June 2017, 166 participants had received assessment, clinical mental health, in-home tenancy supports and links to other community and government services. The two-year project was extended for six months until 31 December 2017.

The University of Queensland is evaluating the project, and the final outcomes evaluation is under way. The interim evaluation found participants had sustained their tenancies, improved their physical and mental health and increased their social participation. It also identified the benefits of early intervention approaches which assist tenants with complex needs who are at high risk of eviction due to behaviours relating to their illness.

An online learning and development portal has been launched with Queensland Health. Six e-Learning modules teach staff and network partners about the needs of tenants experiencing mental illness, mental health difficulties and problematic substance use, and how to stabilise their housing.

Renew and identify options to expand the reach of the Ed-LinQ initiative

The Ed-LinQ initiative aims to improve linkages and service integration between the education, primary care and mental health sectors for earlier detection and treatment of mental illness affecting school-aged children and young people.

In 2015, the Commission funded Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service to undertake the Ed-LinQ Renewal Project to develop a model to renew and expand Ed-LinQ. During 2016-17 the Ed-LinQ Renewal Project involved contributions from stakeholders across education, including Catholic and independent schools, health and community sectors. .

Under Connecting care to recovery 2016-2021: A plan for Queensland's State-funded mental health, alcohol and other drug service an additional investment of \$5.2 million over five years has been made available to support the expansion of Ed-LinQ. The funding enhancements provide for the reinstatement of a statewide Ed-LinQ coordinator, hosted by the Children's Health Queensland

Hospital and Health Service; the development of a workforce development strategy; the development of a performance and monitoring framework; additional Ed-LinQ coordinator positions across the state; and a refreshed governance structure to continue to support cross-sectoral partnerships between health and education.

The Ed-LinQ Renewal Project Final Report was received in November 2016 and included a proposed Ed-LinQ Model and 16 recommendations. The report will support the expansion of the Ed-LinQ program.