

Shared Commitment 7: Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Services Plan

Shared Commitment 7 seeks to achieved:

- *a service system that better prioritises and more effectively responds to individuals and communities with the highest incidence, prevalence and severity of mental illness or substance use disorders*
- *a greater proportion of services delivered in the community and as close to home as is safe*
- *more flexible service and funding models that foster innovation and meet the needs of individuals in more holistic ways*
- *comprehensive high quality statewide and specialist services to achieve equity of access and outcomes in a decentralised system.*

Actions

Connecting Care to Recovery 2016-2021: A Plan for Queensland's State Funded Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drug Services (Connecting Care to Recovery) was released on 10 October 2016.

This plan sets the direction and highlights priorities to enhance the state-funded mental health, alcohol and drug services system to more effectively respond to individuals with the most severe mental illness or problematic substance use, either episodic or persistent. The release of *Connecting Care to Recovery* delivers on this Shared Commitment to Action.

Connecting Care to Recovery outlines a range of activities against five priority areas:

- access to appropriate services as close to home as practicable and at the optimal time
- workforce development and optimisation of skills and scope
- better use of information and communication technology to enhance clinical practice, information sharing, data collection and performance reporting
- early identification and intervention in response to suicide risk
- strengthening patients' rights under the *Mental Health Act 2016*.

Future enhancements under *Connecting Care to Recovery* are focused on developing the range of service models across the care continuum, especially for community treatment, community support and community bed-based services. Significant new investment is targeted toward building and establishing additional adult and youth step up step down services, new residential services for young people and crisis residential services for adults.

Over five years, *Connecting Care to Recovery* will deliver a range of service enhancements covering:

- child and youth initiatives
- adult mental health services and older adult initiatives
- resources for implementation of the *Mental Health Act 2016*
- additional perinatal and infant mental health services
- new investment in alcohol and other drug services
- enhancements to forensic and prison mental health services
- improvements to statewide and specialist mental health services
- mental health, alcohol and other drug workforce initiatives.

The delivery of initiatives commenced in the latter part of 2016-17, and is taking place through Hospital and Health Services and other state-funded mental health, alcohol and other drug services, including non-government organisations.

A measurement strategy and an evaluation framework have been developed to assess outcomes related to the implementation of *Connecting Care to Recovery*. These will assess service delivery

improvements and the impact on the lives of people accessing public mental health, alcohol and other drug services. Evaluations will be undertaken at two-year intervals over the life of the plan, as well as a final summative evaluation.